BJC employees have a range of health care degree opportunities through Fontbonne University

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**BJC** | When BJC employees choose to further their education, they have a number of opportunities available to them. The academic partnership between the BJC Institute for Learning and Development (BILD) and Fontbonne University offers a number of opportunities.

“Our partnership with Fontbonne provides several options for employees interested in pursuing a bachelor’s degree or a master’s degree,” says Beth Camp, BILD senior learning and development consultant for academic partnerships. “The bachelor’s degree programs allow students to take all of the degree requirements through Fontbonne, with classes offered at a convenient location — the BJC Learning Institute — while the master’s degree program in supply chain management provides the convenience of an online option.”

**Pursuing a bachelor’s degree at Fontbonne**

Employees interested in learning more about the business of health care have the option to earn a bachelor of science degree in business administration or health care management or a bachelor of arts in general studies with an emphasis in business through the BILD and Fontbonne University partnership.

These undergraduate programs are designed specifically for BJC employees and are offered in a cohort format.

Two classes are offered each session (fall, spring and summer), and students can enroll in any session throughout the year. Classes are currently offered at the BJC Learning Institute two nights a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, but that can increase to meet demand, Camp says.

“These programs are designed for evening students, who may have different academic needs, depending on whether they have prior academic experience or no prior academic experience,” says Katie Piacentini, PhD, Fontbonne University director of accreditation and graduate programs. “Students may take more than one class at a time if they wish to complete sooner rather than later, but we recognize that many will take one class at a time.”

The program was designed for students to take business courses on one night, health care management courses on another night and general education/core courses on yet another night, Piacentini explains.
“Offering the necessary general education courses as part of our rotation is an important part of providing a liberal arts education,” she says. “With this design, students can navigate a completion plan with their advisor that meets their goals and needs.

“With this rotation, we also offer a bachelor of arts degree in general studies with a business emphasis for students who have several hours but no degree and want to complete their studies by earning a credible degree without having to start over,” Piacentini adds.

Each degree can provide unique opportunities for BJC students. The health care management degree gives students a business degree that focuses on the health care environment and can be applied to hospitals, clinics, physician offices and other health care organizations. The business administration degree focuses on business concepts that are used across multiple disciplines and organizations.

Tuition is $350 per credit hour. Eligible employees can use BJC tuition benefits to help pay for tuition.

Supply chain management master’s degree online option

Earning a master of science degree in supply chain management from Fontbonne University is another option for employees interested in obtaining an advanced degree. Offered entirely online, the program has a rolling start throughout the year.

“This program became available to BJC employees earlier this year and it’s a great option, not only because BJC has its own supply chain department, but also because it’s a growing area of opportunity,” says Piacentini. “Many companies are looking at ways to reduce costs and increase efficiencies, so the supply chain degree gives people the tools to accomplish those tasks.”

Courses covering topics such as project management, operations management, process and methodology, logistics in supply chain, and strategic procurement are taught by working professionals in the industry. The courses are based on the SCPro Level One Certification curricula as administered by the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals.

“In addition, embedded in our supply chain program is an academic certificate in project management,” Piacentini says. “We have worked with Project Management Professions (PMP) to ensure that our courses meet the academic requirements for individuals wishing to seek the PMP certification from the Project Management Institute. We are very excited to add this opportunity to our list of options for BJC employees.”

The BJC discount tuition rate is $500 per credit hour, not including any required fees.

For more information about these programs, visit www.BJCLearn.org, or send questions to Academic Partnerships at GS-AcdmicPrtnrshps@bjc.org.