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Jobs in the pipeline? Local schools gear up for expected surge of utility work

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Six local schools have formed a consortium to train students for more than 600 jobs that are expected to be needed in the coming years involving work on underground gas utility systems.

Drexel University, Community College of Philadelphia, Delaware County Community College, Bucks County Community College, Camden County College, and Montgomery County Community College on Monday announced the formation of the Collegiate Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development, a nonprofit to teach the skills necessary to work in the natural-gas distribution industry.

Peco Energy Co. and Philadelphia Gas Works, which are part of the consortium, have received regulatory approval to accelerate spending to replace aging gas mains. Two contractors, Henkels & McCoy and Utility Line Services, also are part of the consortium.

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