RALEIGH, NC- On September 18, 2013, the 7x24 Exchange Carolina’s Chapter will be making a presentation of contribution to the NC Community Colleges for use by three colleges focused on the Mission Critical Operators Curriculum. The $15,000.00 contribution is to forward these community colleges development of the curriculum written by the Chapter’s Education Committee, Chaired by Paul Marcoux, Senior Vice President BB&T. This curriculum supports the development of our workforce in facilities across the State of North Carolina and will be focused on Nash Community College in Rocky Mount, Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh and Cleveland Community College in Shelby.

President of the Chapter, Tom Jacobik, Global Operations Manager at Apple and Paul Marcoux will be making this presentation to Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the NC Community College System, and the presidents of each of the three colleges: Dr. Bill Carver from Nash, Dr. Steve Scott from Wake Tech and Dr. Steve Thornburg from Cleveland.

Quote from Paul Marcoux:
“The Mission Critical Operations skill train has arrived at the station. Those departing (retiring) are taking with them decades of formal and on-job-training skills. Yet, the individual skill sets of those waiting to embark are significantly less than is required by the Mission Critical Industry. Mission Critical is not just about data centers, it’s about the thousands of people behind the scene keeping critical support functions operating, 24X7x365. Beyond data centers, it’s about hospitals, critical manufacturing process, 911 call centers, bio manufacturing and hundreds of other critical industries, all facing the same skill shortage. I’m very proud to be part of this education evolution, like a conductor would say to those desiring to become a Mission Critical Operator, welcome aboard.”

Quote from Tom Jacobik:
“The 7x24 Organization is a steward to the Mission Critical infrastructure that supports a majority of the business in the region. As stewards, it is important that we not only manage the resources we have, but develop better ones. This contribution will go far in helping develop the mission critical technicians of tomorrow. It is our duty to the community to help develop the next generation of mission critical operators and to ensure the success of businesses statewide. I am very honored to be a leader in an organization that is focused on building a better tomorrow. By building on the educational capabilities
of our community colleges through curriculum development, we put those who partake of this education in a much better position to excel.”

The Mission Critical Operator Curriculum initiative began as an effort by the 7x24 Exchange Chapter to provide for technically trained individuals needed in the workforce to accommodate the growing demand in our state. The growth of Mission Critical Data Centers in the Mid-Atlantic region has created an extra-ordinary demand for operations personnel to maintain the dependability, reliability and energy efficiency of such facilities. Because of the critical nature of these facilities, the required responsibilities and comprehensive knowledge base may exceed the general education provided to journeyman or technicians in the electrical or mechanical field.

Realizing that most community colleges offer course work or curriculum based on general building construction and maintenance technologies, the organization 7x24 Exchange International’s Carolinas Chapter has developed a plan to promote mission critical operations curricula through selected community colleges in North and South Carolina. It is hoped that such a focused curriculum will provide added value to graduates of the community college systems in the Carolinas and provide much needed value to the growing infrastructure of the mission critical community.

7x24 Exchange is the leading knowledge exchange for those who design, build, use and maintain mission-critical enterprise information infrastructures. The Education Committee supports the technical and general college student’s curriculums through the enhancement, understanding and advancement of Mission Critical Technology. Key Mission Critical careers reside independently or within Information Technology, Hospitals, Utilities and many others industries. Mission Critical factors focus on Reliability, Concurrent Maintenance, Best Practices, Energy Conservation and Costing. 7x24 Exchange Carolina’s Scholarship is designed to make you a more knowledgeable and valued member of any Mission Critical team, once you become available to the workforce, by providing funding to aid in tuition and possibly internship opportunities to second year students.