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Dish Network set to hire 135

Most new hires are needed to handle calls from customers having trouble with service.

By Amy Matzke-Fawcett | 381-1674

CHRISTIANSBURG -- Dish Network plans to hire about 135 employees in the next eight to 10 weeks.

The new employees will be based in the call center on Technology Drive in Christiansburg, said site director Alex Greengold. Most will be technical service representatives handling calls from customers needing help with their TV service, he said.

The center's call volume is expected to go up over the summer, he said.

"Even in a bad economy, it's been proven people will not get rid of their TV service," Greengold said.

Wages start at \$11 an hour and include benefits.

Information about the positions will be available at a booth outside the south end zone of Lane Stadium today before the Virginia Tech spring football game or online at www.dishnetwork.com/about/careers.

The Christiansburg call center currently employs about 800 people, said Mark Woodward, a human resources representative.

The Denver-based company has 13 call centers across the United States, including one in Bluefield, W.Va., and has about 22,000 employees nationwide, Woodward said.

Any opportunity that brings jobs to the area is positive, said Catherine Sutton, executive director of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

"People want to live and work in the New River Valley," Sutton said. "We're always happy to hear about jobs coming to the area."

Greengold is one of the company's transplants -- he came to Christiansburg from Florida about two months ago.

In March, Dish Network competitor DirecTV announced that it planned to hire 100 employees from across Southwest Virginia to staff a virtual call center, supplying customer support and service from home.

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