

# **Community-Based Job Training Grants**

*Northwest-Shoals Community College*

**Grantee:** Northwest-Shoals Community College

**Industry Focus:** Advanced Manufacturing

**Key Partners:** Sheffield CareerLink (One-Stop Career Center); North Alabama Skills Training Consortium; Alabama Office of Workforce Development; Florence City Schools; Allen Thornton Vocational Center; Jacksonville State University; Applied Chemical Technology Inc.; B & W Machine Tool Inc.; Cockburn Enterprises Inc.; Flexco; Hi-Temp Incorporated; Magnus Tool & Die; Rolls Inc.; Tool Masters Inc.; Listerhill; Wise Alloys LLC; Shoals Economic Development Authority; Easter Seals Disability Services; and Alabama Technology Network (ATN) Centers

**Grant Amount:** \$1,911,507

**Leveraged Amount:** \$1,350,000

**Location of Grant Activities:** Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Lawrence, Marion and Winston counties of Northwest Alabama

**Challenge:** Manufacturing is a high growth industry in Alabama, with four automotive companies and numerous suppliers have relocated there since 1996. There is a critical need for entry-level and advanced training for machinists, tool and die makers, and Computer Numerically Controlled programmers and operators. In order to meet demand, Northwest-Shoals Community College needs resources to equip a state-of-the-art training lab; hire skilled faculty; offer certificate and degree programs; and provide short-term customized training that meets local industry needs.

**Addressing the Challenge:** Northwest- Shoals Community College will establish an Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) to focus on industrial machinist training. The center will expand the college's capacity by upgrading classroom and laboratory facilities and adding additional faculty resources. Additionally, industry input will help to expand and improve curriculum and course delivery methods. Training will result in short term and advanced certificates, an associate's degree in Occupations Technology, and preparation for industry certification. Finally, a manufacturing career ladder and outreach activities will be developed to promote the admission and advancement of rural, minority and other at-risk students.

## **Projected Outcomes:**

- Increase the number of students admitted to machinist programs to 40 students annually (up from 20 students per year currently)
- Increase number of machinist graduates: 10 associate's degrees (from 0 currently), 40 58-semester hour certificates (from 12), 30 28-credit hour short certificates (from 1), and 150 upgraded training certificates (from 0)
- Increase number of machinists employed in the local economy by 25 percent
- Increase average earnings of machinist trainees after six months of employment by 20%
- Increase high school students admitted to manufacturing program from 20 to 75 by 2009
- In all, 230 machinists will receive training during the 36-month grant period, half as new entrants and half as incumbent workers; 75 additional high school students will receive training as part of a summer career ladder camp.