

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Grantee: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Industry Focus: Energy

Key Partners: Colorado Workforce Center; the Training Advantage; San Juan Basin Technical College; Delta-Montrose Technical College; Price Mine Service; West Elk Mine; Bowie Resources Mine; Oxbow, Inc. Mine/Gunnison Energy; Triad Western Constructors; Skanska USA Civil; Weeminuche Construction Authority; Four Corners Materials; Southwest Contracting; Jacobs Field Service; Bill Barrett Corporation; Colorado School of Mines; Western Colorado Community College; Pueblo Community College; Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe Education Department; Southwest Board of Cooperative Services; Delta County School District 50J; Durango Adult Education Center; Unlimited Learning Center

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000

Leveraged Amount: \$1,999,613

Location of Grant Activities: Western workforce region (Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Hinsdale counties) and Southwest workforce region (Delores, San Juan, Montezuma, LaPlata, Archuleta counties), Colorado

Challenge: Two employment challenges that face the energy industry are: 1) shortages of skilled workers as a result of retiring workers and industry growth and 2) changing technology requiring new training for incumbent workers and new hires. The shortage of workers is affecting Colorado's western slope, home to the largest natural gas reserves in the country and from which 42% of Colorado's high-grade, low-sulphur coal is extracted. Mining officials indicate that they have been operating below 100% workforce levels since 2005 due to a lack of skilled workers.

Addressing the Challenge: Industry employers have approached two state vocational colleges in western Colorado to help address their skilled labor needs. The San Juan Basin Technical College and Delta-Montrose Technical College have historically been limited in capacity to provide training. This project will address those limitations by offering complementary training specific to industry needs in their respective communities. Training will result in job skills enhancement for existing employees, entry-level job preparation, and opportunities for participants to grow their careers through continuing education.

Projected Outcomes:

- 2,520 individuals enrolled in training activities
- 2,016 individuals will complete training activities
- 714 individuals placed in employment or further education
- 2,016 degrees or certificates awarded