

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Central Arizona College

Grantee: Central Arizona College, a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Central Arizona Association of Governments, Casa Grande Regional Medical Center, Banner Health, HuhuKam Memorial Hospital, Chandler Regional Hospital, Maricopa Integrated Health System, Insight, Professional Radiology Consultants Ltd., Northwest Medical Center Oro Valley, Arizona Training Center, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology (CAVIT), Central Arizona College Foundation, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Seeds of Hope, and the Greater Casa Grande Valley Economic Development Foundation

Grant Amount: \$1,985,204

Leveraged Amount: \$833,000

Location of Grant Activities: Arizona

Challenge: Arizona's nursing shortage is particularly acute in Pinal County, primarily because of the region's exploding population and the associated growth of its healthcare system. Moreover, in Pinal County, it is challenging to develop a skilled healthcare workforce due to the population's low level of educational attainment. Facility nursing directors in the college's service area indicate vacancy rates of more than 17 percent.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will build capacity and strengthen training opportunities within the local healthcare industry by refining and expanding the production and placement of registered nurses and launching an associate's degree for radiology technologists. The project also will expand the supply of healthcare students by increasing the number of slots available in General Equivalency Diploma (G.E.D.) and prerequisite science courses. Additionally, area hospitals have committed to providing students with clinical and outpatient experiences. The project will involve recruiting qualified faculty for the Nurse Education and Radiology Technologist Programs. The programs will form a career ladder, enabling high school students, individuals without a high school diploma or equivalent, and people with little work experience and job skills to obtain skilled healthcare positions.

Projected Outcomes:

- Educate and train 630 students in the healthcare field
- 150 new students will enter the nursing program and 60 student nurses will graduate during the grant period
- 30 new students will enter the radiology program, and 13 students will graduate by the end of the project

