

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Grantee: Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC)

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority (CNHSA), Mays Home Health, Inc., McAlester Regional Health Center (MRHC), Medical Center of Southern Oklahoma (MCSO), Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), Wilburton Public School District, Kiamichi Technology Center, East Central University, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and Southeast Oklahoma Area Health Education Center (SOAHEC)

Grant Amount: \$1,786,780

Leveraged Amount: \$4,169,054

Location of Grant Activities: Oklahoma

Challenge: The Southeast Oklahoma Workforce Investment Area Occupational Outlook for 2002-2012 indicates a 42 percent increase in the number of RNs needed in the targeted project area. The project-based needs assessment of local hospitals, clinics, and other health care facilities reveals a severe need for nurses – 100 percent of the employers cited difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified nurses to fill their growing vacancies.

Addressing the Challenge: The project has two components: 1) providing training to a greater number of eligible individuals that enables them to earn a degree and certification as a registered nurse, and 2) building the capacity within EOSC and the workforce development system to better meet local health care industry needs. Recruitment activities will be expanded to attract minorities, including Native Americans, and nontraditional students.

Projected Outcomes:

- 309 participants will receive training through the EOSC Nursing program
- The EOSC Nursing program will be expanded and improved so that more students enroll and successfully complete the two-year program and achieve a certification rate of at least 85 percent each year
- The project seeks to achieve a job placement rate of at least 95 percent each year at or above local industry average retention and salary standards
- Currently an average of 32 LPN students transition to EOSC each year from Kiamichi Technology Center. The partnership will increase that number by 15 additional students each year
- Attract at least four students to transition on to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program each year

