

## **Community-Based Job Training Grants**

*Florida Community College at Jacksonville*

**Grantee:** Florida Community College at Jacksonville

**Industry Focus:** Aviation

**Key Partners:** WorkSource; Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns Public School Districts; Jacksonville Air Route Traffic Control Center; Jacksonville Aviation Authority; Jacksonville Terminal Radar Approach Control; Fresh Ministries; Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce; Nassau County Economic Development Board; Greater Nassau County Chamber of Commerce; Island Chamber; City of Fernandina Beach; Eastern Michigan University; and the Aerospace Resource Center of Florida.

**Grant Amount:** \$1,995,589

**Leveraged Amount:** \$5,395,700

**Location of Grant Activities:** Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties, Florida

**Challenge:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) predicts the loss of more than 13,000 air traffic controllers through retirements, resignations, promotions, and training attrition from 2007-2016. To make up for these losses, the FAA expects to hire more than 15,000 air traffic controllers during the next decade. The FAA faces many obstacles and barriers to meeting their future employment needs including: an unprecedented number of retirements; a lack of awareness of career opportunities and of the unique prerequisites young people need in order to become an air traffic controller; and a lack of air traffic controller training programs that are affordable and centrally located.

**Addressing the Challenge:** To address these challenges, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, a newly designated FAA training center, will design an “Air Traffic Control Training Initiative” that will focus on the development and expansion of Air Operations training. The project will enable the college to train 150 students in five groups, offer a two-year Air Operations associate’s degree with a specialty in air traffic control, develop articulation agreements with four-year institutions including Eastern Michigan University, and align the program with high school career academies in four rural counties.

**Projected Outcomes:**

- 150 students will enroll in the associate’s degree in Air Traffic Control program
- The 150 students trained with grant funds will enter employment in the aerospace industry
- 140 students will earn an associate’s degree
- The project will include the creation of Air Traffic Control Learning Labs with simulator consoles