

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Gloucester County College

Grantee: Gloucester County College (GCC)

Industry Focus: Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Campbell Soup Company; Rastelli's Fine Foods; La Brea Bakery; South Jersey Chemical Manufacturers Safety Council; Houston Area Safety Council-Houston, Texas; Thomas Colace Company; Salem County Community College; Cornell University; University of Delaware; Rutgers--The State University of New Jersey; Gloucester County Institute of Technology; Camden County Technical Schools; Monroe Township Public Schools; Gloucester City Public Schools; Woodbury Public Schools; Clayton Public Schools; Gloucester County Workforce Investment Board; U. S. Small Business Administration, NJ Division; and New Jersey Department of Commerce

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000

Leveraged Amount: \$1,689,395

Location of Grant Activities: New Jersey

Challenge: The food production and manufacturing sector is the largest industry in the U.S., employing about 2 million in manufacturing alone, accounting for more than 16% of the Gross National Product, and providing 4 million jobs in related industries. There are currently more than 620 food production facilities within a 50-mile radius of Gloucester and Salem County Colleges. Food manufacturing, which is comprised of food science and process engineering, includes biotechnology and advanced manufacturing components. Employment projections through 2012 indicate that chemical and biological technicians are among the fastest-growing occupations, particularly in occupations that require an associate's degree. In addition, the NJ Department of Labor has listed food science, food technology, and food products processing as occupational training areas "in demand" for all counties in New Jersey. Since food manufacturing occurs in all areas of the country, this project will have potential for broad replication at other community colleges.

Addressing the Challenge: The Food Industry Technology and Science—New Jersey Careers (FITS—NJ Careers) project addresses the need for workers in a wide range of occupations associated with food science, manufacturing, and production. Activities will include the development of continuing education certification and associate degree programs, including technology-based, distance learning curricula. The programs will be science-centered, and will allow students to advance their careers in food science/ engineering or other demand areas requiring parallel skills, such as the pharmaceutical industry. The grant also will fund K-12 curriculum development and teacher workshops to create an understanding of the career potential and job opportunities associated with the food manufacturing sector.

Projected Outcomes:

- Approximately 4,960 continuing education participants will receive training
- 120 participants will be enrolled in food science and technology associate degree programs
- Outreach will be targeted toward 2,000 high school students

