

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Harrisburg Area Community College

Grantee: Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC)

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Reading Area Community College, Manufacturers' Association of South Central Pennsylvania (represents 350 member companies), Keystone Development Partnership, Berks Workforce Investment Board, Lancaster Workforce Investment Board, South Central Workforce Investment Board, William F. Goodling Regional Advanced Skills Learning Center and the Career Technology Center (CTC) Manufacturing Consortium (members include 8 Career and Technical Centers, Workforce Investment Boards, and post-secondary schools)

Grant Amount: \$2,007,740

Leveraged Amount: \$745,000

Location of Grant Activities: Pennsylvania

Challenge: Forty-six percent of the region's manufacturing workforce is age 45 and over, and 17 percent are 55 and over. This creates two challenges: 1) seasoned employees need to learn manufacturing technology skills (electrical, mechanical, process control, and computer); and 2) younger workers need to be trained so they can be moved up from entry-level jobs to replace the large numbers of more experienced baby boomers who will be retiring. To remain globally competitive and to deliver high value products, innovative new processes that rely on a smaller but more highly trained workforce must be continually created; however, manufacturing employers have difficulty recruiting the skilled workforce they need.

Addressing the Challenge: The project has two overarching goals: The first is to increase the capacity of Harrisburg Area Community College and Reading Area Community College to provide workforce training for industrial maintenance and mechatronics in the 10-county region of South Central Pennsylvania using a solutions-based approach with long-term and sustainable partnerships in the workforce investment system, employers and industry-related organizations and associations, and the continuum of education. The second goal is to provide high end technical training for South Central Pennsylvania manufacturers in need of qualified workers.

Projected Outcomes:

- More than 1,000 incumbent workers will receive specialized skills training in industrial maintenance and/or mechatronics
- Provide participants with portable and nationally recognized industry credentials
- Purchase industry-specific equipment and web-based training systems
- Develop articulation agreements with secondary schools, the Advanced Skills Learning Center, and four-year schools to establish a structured pathways for careers in mechatronics and industrial maintenance

