

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## *Illinois Eastern Community College*

**Grantee:** Illinois Eastern Community College

**Industry Focus:** Energy

**Key Partners:** District 529 Wabash Valley College, Workforce Education, Monterey Coal Company, Freeman United Coal Company, Peabody Coal Company – Big Ridge/Willow Lake Mine, Knight Hawk Coal, American Coal Co., the United Mine Workers of America, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals, the Illinois Coal Association, and Wabash Area Development, Inc.

**Grant Amount:** \$859,214

**Leveraged Amount:** \$354,400

**Location of Grant Activities:** Illinois

**Challenge:** The Illinois mining industry as well as the nation's mining industry are facing a shortage of skilled workers. Because of the projected retirement of approximately 50 percent of existing experienced miners within the next five to seven years, there is also a shortage of experienced maintenance personnel. Therefore, the problem facing the Illinois coal industry is twofold: 1) the need for an influx of new miners, and 2) the need for advanced training in several disciplines for current workers in the industry.

**Addressing the Challenge:** Illinois Eastern Community College will address identified skill shortages in the mining industry including maintenance, operator, and supervisory skills as well as basic mining industry skills/knowledge for new miners. Training and capacity building activities include the development of a mobile classroom that can be used to delivery Advanced Training at the mine location; the development of new curriculum and modification of the existing curriculum to meet the needs of the industry; the further development and testing of an internship/orientation program; and the support for a Project Manager and trainers to work with industry to develop, organize and deliver site specific training.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- Provide advanced skills training to 200 mining employees
- Job placement at the end of the orientation/internship program for 160 individuals
- Develop curriculum for mining internship/orientation program

