

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## Fort Scott Community College

**Grantee:** Fort Scott Community College

**Industry Focus:** Construction

**Key Partners:** Eight area high schools (Fort Scott, Girard, Uniontown, Paola, Louisburg, Pittsburg, Osawatomie and Frontenac); Pittsburg State University; Crossland Construction; Eby Construction; Associated General Contractors of America; and Area V Workforce Investment Board

**Grant Amount:** \$1,994,474

**Leveraged Amount:** \$2,241,750

**Location of Grant Activities:** Three southeast Kansas counties, five southeast Kansas cities, and the cities of Uniontown, Frontenac, and Louisburg

**Challenge:** Skilled construction workers are in high demand across Kansas, with the southeast region projecting a 20% increase, the northeast region an 18.2% increase and the Kansas City region a 20.5% increase between 2002-2012. While the Kansas construction industry is growing, the educational and training system is not keeping pace with industry needs. There is no clear associate's degree training path for the construction industry in southeast Kansas. There is no systematic approach in regional community colleges for recruitment, education, training, professional development, and job placement for the construction industry.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The "Construction Industry Education Pathway," will address the immediate shortage of skilled workers by providing education pathways to careers in construction. High school students will be eligible to begin their career pathways during their junior and senior years. Agreements between Fort Scott Community College and partnering high schools will ensure access for high school graduates to postsecondary programs. Programs will lead to associate's degrees, and students will have the opportunity to pursue bachelor's degrees through Pittsburg State University. This curriculum will provide qualified students with the opportunity to pursue summer jobs and internships. Innovative delivery systems, online classes, teleconferencing, and interface description language software (IDL) will expand access to programs for non-traditional students and incumbent workers. A comprehensive database will be built to store data on student progress, employment, retention, graduation and workforce information relative to students and the project.

### Projected Outcomes:

- 204 individuals will enroll in the high school/community college/university program
- 50 individuals will earn a credential in the first three years, including National Center for Construction Education and Research certifications
- 80 percent will receive degrees or credential when the program is fully operational