

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Grantee: Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: West Kentucky and Green River Workforce Investment Boards; Hopkinsville, Henderson and Madisonville Community Colleges; Murray State University, Murray-Calloway County and Mayfield-Graves County Area Technical Centers; County Public School Districts (Christian, Carlisle, Hickman, Henderson, Lyon, Muhlenburg); FP Inc.; T.RAD North America Inc.; Propulsys Inc.; Meritor Suspension Systems Company; DANA Corp.; Continental Mills; Amfine Chemical Corp; Pella Corporation; Kentucky Association of Manufacturers; Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Southern Pennyryle; Pennyryle Industrial Managers Association; Chambers of Commerce (Hopkinsville and Christian County, Muhlenburg, Paducah Area); Christian County Economic Development Council; Economic Development Corporation of Madisonville-Hopkins County

Grant Amount: \$2,388,552

Leveraged Amount: \$3,343,100

Location of Grant Activities: Montgomery and 18 western Kentucky counties

Challenge: Advanced manufacturing is an important industry in Kentucky, generating one-fifth of Gross State Product, ranking it 5th among states in manufacturing intensity. Mass layoffs continue to occur as the industry struggles to compete. Three areas of need have been identified: lack of a flexible and easily accessible core/advanced training curriculum, lack of a seamless technical worker career ladder with multiple entry/exit points, and lack of a pipeline of future workers due to a negative image of manufacturing.

Addressing the Challenge: The Industrial Talent Enhancement Model (ITEM) will bring together key partners to address manufacturers' training needs in the region through a three-level plan: 1) assessment, foundational and remedial skills training, 2) basic manufacturing skills training, and 3) upper-level industrial maintenance training. To build a future pipeline for the industry, the model will implement a mentoring program staffed by manufacturing employees and aimed at students grades 6-12. Capacity will be built by adding training personnel and equipment, outfitting a flexible schedule/multi-purpose training center, deploying a mobile training center, and developing a website for marketing and management.

Projected Outcomes:

- Enrollment in the training program will increase from 250 to 1,750. This will include 1,500 trainees receiving credentials and 250 students being mentored.
- A total of 1,200 will enter employment, including both those entering the workforce and incumbent workers who will get higher paying jobs, with average earnings of \$12.50 or more per hour
- 975 program participants will receive promotions or wage gains
- Products developed will include the ITEM Career Ladder, the BBBS/KAM Mentoring Program, and the MSU Road Scholars Outreach Initiative