

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## Middlesex Community College

**Grantee:** Middlesex Community College

**Industry Focus:** Energy – Utility

**Key Partners:** National Grid, Energy Council of the Northeast, Metro North Regional Employment Board, Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board, Central Massachusetts Regional Employment Board, North Shore Workforce Investment Board, The Career Place, Career Center of Lowell, Workforce Central Career Center, North Shore Career Center, Merrimack Valley Tech Prep Partnership, Worcester Tech Prep Partnership, and North Shore Tech Prep Consortium.

**Grant Amount:** \$1,886,569

**Leveraged Amount:** \$696,079

**Location of Grant Activities:** Massachusetts, particularly Worcester, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex

**Challenge:** National Grid (NG), a partner on this project and one of the country's leading energy delivery and transmission organizations, has workforce projections closely mirroring those of the *Craft Skills Gap Survey* conducted in summer 2005 by the Utility Workforce Planning Network. The survey reported four significant areas where utilities face the greatest hiring needs in the next decade: maintenance and repair workers; electrical power line installers and repairers; first-line supervisors and managers; and power plant operators. Like the entire national utility industry, NG has an aging field-force population with more than half eligible for retirement within the next decade.

**Addressing the Challenge:** Middlesex Community College will collaborate with National Grid (NG) to develop career ladder certificate and associate degree programs in Energy Utility Technology (EUT). The certificate will prepare workers to fill critical entry-level line worker (overhead and underground), meter worker, and substation maintenance worker positions. The certificate leads to an associate degree that prepares students to become Junior Engineer/Operations Design Technicians.

### Projected Outcomes:

- Provide EUT training to a total of 156 students, with 75 percent being recent high school graduates and 25 percent being dislocated workers
- Develop Certificate in Energy Utility Technology and Associate Science Degree in Energy Utility curricula
- Develop the capacity to offer Energy Utility Technology training through certificate and associate degree programs

