

# **Community-Based Job Training Grants**

*Metropolitan Community College*



**Grantee:** Metropolitan Community College (MCC)

**Industry Focus:** Information Technology

**Key Partners:** Tri-County Workforce Investment System and One-Stop Career Center; FutureForce Nebraska; Nebraska Department of Education; West Corporation; Goodwill Association of Iowa and Nebraska (GAIN); Dell Computer; Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce; AIM Institute

**Grant Amount:** \$1,879,612

**Leveraged Amount:** \$3,076,922

**Location of Grant Activities:** Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties, Nebraska

**Challenge:** The Information Technology (IT) industry in Nebraska is projected to add a substantial number of new jobs, affecting the economy and the growth of other industries. Locally, IT-related vacancies are projected to increase 42 percent by 2017. IT demands are requiring workers to learn new skill sets to meet the needs of regional employers. Four capacity challenges must be addressed: 1) MCC's current IT curriculum lacks relevant work-based learning components; 2) College faculty and industry representatives are not yet partnering in education; 3) Not enough students are graduating with IT certifications; and 4) barriers to learning remain in place for certain segments of the population.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The Partners, Pathways and Placement: Market Responsive Information Technology (P3) project will address the growing shortage of skilled IT professionals in Eastern Nebraska. The focus will be to engage three IT business partners to provide students with work-related experiences as part of the IT curriculum. This will result in a larger pipeline of qualified, employable students. English language learners and low-income students will be offered learn-while-you-earn opportunities, laptop access and tuition vouchers.

## **Projected Outcomes:**

- 50 students will complete the employer-based apprenticeship program in one of five IT competency areas. 46 will complete a youth apprenticeship program
- The number of high school students completing dual credit IT courses will increase from 122 to 710.
- 134 will complete the Call Center Cohort program, and 101 will complete the Goodwill e-waste program, which recycles computer equipment
- The number of persons who earn a specialist diploma in an IT area will increase from 1 to 26, and those who earn a certificate of achievement will more than triple.
- The number of students earning associate's degrees in IT programs will increase from 46 to 325.
- During the three-year period, 473 (83%) non-incumbent completers will enter employment