

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Brookdale Community College

Grantee: Brookdale Community College

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Meridian Health; Presbyterian Homes and Services, Inc.; Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board; Monmouth County Vocational School; and Rutgers University

Grant Amount: \$1,384,379

Leveraged Amount: \$550,120

Location of Grant Activities: Monmouth County, New Jersey

Challenge: Monmouth County is facing workforce shortages in nursing and allied health. As baby boomers near retirement age and the need for preventive care increases, record numbers of healthcare professionals will be leaving the field. The demand for registered nurses, certified nursing aides, and medical lab technicians will far exceed the supply by 2014. Additionally, the emergence of sophisticated medical technology will require healthcare workers who are skilled in new technologies. The recent decrease in county and state funding, restrictions on hiring new faculty, increasing demands placed on college facilities, and a lack of online counseling and support make it difficult to expand the current health sciences program.

Addressing the Challenge: The Caring for Our Community project seeks to increase institutional capacity to address local workforce shortages by training workers in nursing through the creation of an online nursing program. The Nursing Assistant Initiative program will be expanded, and a “One Plus One Medical Technology” program will be created to meet the industry demand for medical lab technicians. One hundred new nursing students will be enrolled, an online program will be developed, a practice lab will be made available, and clinical experiences will be provided. New facilities will be constructed, and practitioner oversight will be created for the radiologic technology programs. Outreach efforts will target untapped labor pools with information on career training opportunities in healthcare.

Projected Outcomes:

- 100 new students will be enrolled in the online nursing program over two years
- 72 students will pass the NCLEX exam within three months of graduation -- a standardized test that state boards of nursing use to determine whether a candidate is prepared for entry-level nursing
- 20 slots will be created for the new 1+1 Medical Lab Technology (MLT) Program
- 90 percent of MLT students will graduate and pass state, associate’s degree certification exams within three months of graduation
- 60 students will enroll in the Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA) training program
- 85 percent of students will pass the CNA certification exam