

## **Community-Based Job Training Grants**

*Dona Ana Community College*



**Grantee:** Dona Ana Community College

**Industry Focus:** Healthcare

**Key Partners:** Southwestern Area Workforce Development Board; New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions; Las Cruces Public Schools; Deming Public Schools; Gadsden Independent School District; New Mexico State University; Memorial Medical Center; Mountain View Hospital; Ben Archer Health Center; Advanced Care Hospital of New Mexico; Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance; New Mexico Works; and the welfare-to-work group, Gold Mentors

**Grant Amount:** \$1,988,074

**Leveraged Amount:** \$1,242,532

**Location of Grant Activities:** Dona Ana County, New Mexico

**Challenge:** Thirty percent of the regional population lacks a high school diploma. This contributes to low labor market participation, low average wages and high poverty. The skilled workforce has grown only through the recruitment of outside talent. Increased educational opportunities and training in the nursing field would prevent students from leaving the area. Local enrollment is currently constrained by a lack of both faculty and clinical sites.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The Dona Ana Community College Nursing Project will develop a career ladder to overcome the regional shortage of nurses. The project will create more credit and non-credit nursing courses and increase matriculation, graduation, licensure and employment rates. This will be accomplished by attracting qualified nursing faculty to the college; increasing clinical sites; inventorying skills of regional healthcare employees; upgrading curricula to meet industry standards; converting curricular materials to distance learning platforms; and equipping laboratories with state-of-the-art medical training equipment. Targeted groups include: high school students; welfare recipients; incumbent workers in nursing; veterans; individuals with limited English proficiency; individuals lacking high school diplomas; and unemployed, underemployed and disabled workers

**Projected Outcomes:**

- Increase enrollment by 483 students, to a total of 753
- Train a total of 493 individuals, with 88% receiving a degree or certificate
- 70% of participants will enter employment in healthcare, and 89% of those will be retained
- Wage increases will average \$11,628 after six months