

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Oklahoma City Community College



Grantee: Oklahoma City Community College

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Multiple Oklahoma City public and private employers in the clinical research industry; education partners at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; secondary school teachers within the Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) network and the Oklahoma Area Health Education Center network; and the Central Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board.

Grant Amount: \$1,719,318

Leveraged Amount: \$624,000

Location of Grant Activities: Oklahoma

Challenge: There are no existing training programs for clinical researchers within Oklahoma. New employees are typically trained on the job, taking six to nine months to become proficient. Given public unfamiliarity with the health career track, OCCC must develop and implement programs to meet local needs and certification standards, and it must create a pipeline of students to sustain the program.

Addressing the Challenge: This project outlines a comprehensive plan to create a pipeline of workers and a career ladder in the areas of clinical research/clinical trials. Oklahoma City Community College, in consultation with stakeholders, will create a workforce preparation program for the industry, and build faculty and staff capacity at OCCC to support the program. The industry will invest in the program by providing job shadowing, mentoring, and internship opportunities for students. The project will conduct a public awareness campaign focusing on middle and secondary students, incumbent workers, dislocated workers, and community college students.

Projected Outcomes:

- 150 students incumbent, dislocated, and underemployed workers will enter OCCC's workforce preparation program and gain competencies for careers in clinical research
- 90 students will pursue the Clinical Research Coordinator program, 72 will complete the program
- 60 teachers will be trained to deliver program course material
- 225 secondary students who aspire to health careers will undertake supplemental college-readiness activities, and 150 of these students will earn college credits through concurrent enrollment
- A national model will be created for community colleges in other regions seeking to implement a clinical research/clinical trial program
- 4,290 students will gain awareness of the clinical research career opportunities