

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Otero Junior College

Grantee: Otero Junior College, a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Industry Focus: Healthcare, Nursing

Key Partners: Lamar Community College, Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center, Prowers County Medical Center, Bent County HealthCare Center, Colorado Workforce Center-Southeast Region, Rocky Mountain Service Employment Redevelopment (SER)-Southeast Region, and East Otero School District

Grant Amount: \$998,453

Leveraged Amount: \$728,394

Location of Grant Activities: The Southeastern Colorado Counties of Cheyenne, Kiowa, Crowley, Prowers, Bent, Otero, and Baca

Challenge: The Health Resources Services Administration has identified counties in Southeastern Colorado as being medically underserved or as having residents who are part of medically underserved populations. Within the region, there are 15 healthcare facilities and 23 rural ambulance agencies. Nursing professionals are in great demand at these facilities, as well as in doctor's offices, prison facilities, nursing homes, and other healthcare employers.

Addressing the Challenge: The Health and Education Link Partnership (HELP) will allow the nursing programs at two rural Colorado community colleges to meet the region's need for nursing students, graduates, new practitioners, and nursing educators. The HELP program is designed to alleviate these shortages in the nursing industry through the creation of a mobile simulation lab where students can complete clinical requirements and where nursing education can take place outside of the classroom. Additionally, HELP will provide financial support for nursing educators to acquire credentials to maintain their proficiency and licensing as certified classroom instructors and the development of student recruitment and scholarship programs to assist students in reaching their nursing goals.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 380 students
- Increase the number of minority and low-income students by 30 percent
- Career placement for student graduates will exceed 90 percent, with at least 10 percent of these graduates entering specialized nursing fields

