

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Polk Community College

Grantee: Polk Community College (PCC)

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Polk Works; Polk Works One-Stop Career Centers; Central Florida Development Council; Lakeland Regional Medical Center, Winter Haven Hospital, Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center, Bartow Memorial Hospital, and Watson Clinic; Polk County Public Schools, and Polk County Schools Workforce Education Division

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000

Leveraged Amount: \$5,939,023

Location of Grant Activities: Florida

Challenge: As a result of the significant increase in the number of older citizens, Polk County, Florida, is seeing a dramatic increase in the need for cardiovascular technologists and technicians. Hospitals and clinics cite a difficulty in finding qualified personnel and pledge their support to the establishment of a Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) Associate of Science / Associate of Applied Science (A.S./A.A.S) degree program.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will eliminate capacity constraints and will build a training program that provides four career paths leading to an A.S./A.A.S. degree in Cardiovascular Technology. This project will immediately recruit students taking allied health program prerequisites so they can enter an accelerated CVT A.S./A.A.S. degree program and complete industry-specific coursework in one year. It will also design and implement an Incumbent Worker Program through which individuals holding a professional certification will earn a CVT degree and certification; build career ladders for high school students so they can earn program prerequisites and enter the CVT A.S./A.A.S. degree program; create a Bridge Program linking the LPN program at the career centers with the CVT A.S./A.A.S. degree program; and establish an accredited CVT A.S./A.A.S. degree program to meet the long-term staffing needs of hospitals and clinics.

Projected Outcomes:

- Enroll 4,625 students
- Develop project curricula and expand training facilities to utilize all available instructional, laboratory, and clinical space in both schools and worksites
- Develop a staffing plan to recruit qualified and certified personnel
- Create new articulation agreements with career ladders through which students will save both time and money as they progress through programs-of-study linking the allied health programs, the Medical Academies, and the LPN program with the CVT A.S./A.A.S. degree program
- Inform the region of program offerings and recruit students from high schools, adult postsecondary career centers, PCC's general adult population, hospital and clinic staffs, and the community at large.

