

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Savannah Technical College



Grantee: Savannah Technical College

Industry Focus: Construction

Key Partners: Coastal Workforce Services (WIB), Home Builders Association of Greater Savannah, the City of Savannah, Chatham County, Savannah Chamber of Commerce, the Historic Savannah Foundation, Step-up Savannah, Savannah/Chatham School District, and the Savannah College of Art and Design

Grant Amount: \$1,298,411

Leveraged Amount: \$871,660

Location of Grant Activities: Chatham, Effingham, and Bryan Counties, Georgia

Challenge: The labor force in the construction industry is being transformed by changing technology such as green building technology. Advances in technology that now go into residential, office, and other commercial buildings, and the resulting changes in techniques, codes, calibrations, wiring, and inspection, require continuous upgrading of incumbent and new workers and the training/instruction they need. In Georgia, the demand for construction workers is projected to be greater than 34,000 between now and 2012. Savannah, with its burgeoning construction projects, will contribute to this increase with its 2.41 percent growth rate in construction jobs annually.

The need for qualified workers in “green building” technology and other forms of construction technology has created the demand for Savannah Technical College (STC) to develop and implement a comprehensive Construction Technology Program (CTP) and create a Construction and Historic Preservation Skills Center, to accommodate the increased demand and standards for skilled workers.

Addressing the Challenge: Savannah Technical College will create and implement a comprehensive CTP and a Community-Based Construction and Historic Preservation Skills Center to mitigate the shortage of a skilled workforce for the high growth and high demand construction and historic preservation industry. The program will develop a “Skills Center,” which will allow STC to launch a new, three-level award program in Construction Technology that would encompass technical certificates, diplomas, and construction technology degrees. The certificates include the following skill set areas: concrete/masonry, carpentry, basic electrical, basic plumbing, basic air conditioning, green building technology, and historic preservation as well as an early apprenticeship component. The project will emphasize recruiting, enrolling, and retaining special population students.

Projected Outcomes:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive Construction Technology, certificate, diploma, and degree program
- Train 330 students, emphasizing enrollment of non-traditional populations
- Equip a state-of-the-art construction skills center available for training certificate, diploma and degree-seeking students.

