

Community-Based Job Training Grants

South Arkansas Community College

Grantee: South Arkansas Community College

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Arkansas Department of Workforce Service (DWS), Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District, Medical Center of South Arkansas, Ouachita County Medical Center, Ashley County Medical Services, El Dorado Public Schools, Parkers Chapel Public Schools, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Grant Amount: \$1,573,688

Leveraged Amount: \$1,710,227

Location of Grant Activities: Southern Arkansas

Challenge: The shortage of Registered Nurses in South Arkansas is projected to reach 25 percent by 2010. According to Arkansas' Legislative Commission on Nursing, nursing education programs would need to produce 182 percent more graduates to meet the state's projected health care needs by 2010.

Addressing the Challenge: South Arkansas Community College will lead a strategic partnership, which includes the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, three area hospitals, and two workforce investment organizations, in the creation of a new healthcare initiative for Southern Arkansas. The project's goals are to: 1) increase the licensure, and employment or pursuit of advanced nursing training for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), and Surgical Technology students; 2) increase the number of high school students and adults obtaining CNA certification for employment and/or higher nursing degrees; 3) increase the number of LPNs serving South Arkansas and/or pursuing RN and higher nursing degrees; and 4) increase the number of Surgical Technologists serving South Arkansas and/or pursuing LPN or higher nursing degrees. South Arkansas Community College will also create a Health Sciences Careers Advising Model to improve the success and licensure of program participants, and will develop a Health Sciences Institute to graduate well-qualified CNAs from high school and adult populations.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 318 students
- Each year, 104 additional CNAs, LPNs, and Surgical Technicians will complete their programs and enter the workforce or pursue additional nursing education
- Create 32 credit hours of discipline-specific instruction leading to a Technical Certificate curriculum
- Create a Computer-Based Training Lab for online use

