

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Jackson State Community College

Grantee: Jackson State Community College

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Jackson-Madison County General Hospital District; The Jackson Clinic; Local Workforce Investment Area 11; Tennessee Technology Centers in West Tennessee; Jackson-Madison County School System; Tennessee Board of Regents Online Degree Program (RODP); and the University of Memphis

Grant Amount: \$1,997,683

Leveraged Amount: \$1,979,394

Location of Grant Activities: 14 counties in rural west Tennessee

Challenge: The supply of registered nurses in the State of Tennessee is projected to be the eighth lowest in the nation through 2020 and the second smallest among southeastern states. However, capacity challenges -- such as limited physical space, student retention, limited student knowledge of available financial resources, and lack of available qualified nursing faculty -- prevent local community colleges from meeting the growing demand for registered nurses.

Addressing the Challenge: Through this program, Jackson State Community College will offer Tennessee's first online nursing courses via the new RODP online AAS degree in nursing. The training supports long-term career growth by targeting individuals employed as nurse's aides and licensed practical nurses, and those employed in other allied health fields who want to become registered nurses. The program will also strengthen articulation between Jackson State Community College and the University of Memphis and Regents Online Degree nursing programs. This will help RNs earn bachelor's and master's level degrees in preparation for faculty roles. New measures will be developed to detect at-risk students prior to course failure and intervene with a variety of support resources and tutoring initiatives. Outreach efforts will increase awareness of nursing careers among high school students and second career adults in rural west Tennessee.

Projected Outcomes:

- 300 students will be enrolled in LPN to RN Alternative Track
- 140 RN candidates will enroll in the RN Alternative Training Track
- 80 percent of LPN to RN and RN Alternative Track graduates will enter employment as Registered Nurses in rural, west Tennessee
- 50 high school students will participate in an annual nursing summer camp
- Jackson State registered nurse graduates will have a 95 percent success rate on the NCLEX-RN licensing examination