

Community-Based Job Training Grants

University of Arkansas Community College of Batesville

Grantee: University of Arkansas Community College of Batesville

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Arkansas State University at Mountain Home, Ozarka College in Melbourne, The University of Arkansas Systems, Arkansas State University, White River Medical Center, Baxter Regional Medical Center, Fulton County Hospital, Community Medical Center of Izard County, Community Medical at Mountain View, Vital Link Ambulance Service, Townsends of Arkansas, ConAgra, Cave City Nursing Home, Woodlawn Nursing Home, Rolling Hills Nursing Home, Ash Flat Nursing Home, North Central Arkansas Workforce Investment Services, Northwest Arkansas Workforce Investment Services, Batesville School District, Mountain Home School District, Melbourne School District, Cave City School District, Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce, and Melbourne Area Chamber of Commerce

Grant Amount: \$1,992,274

Leveraged Amount: \$5,525,429

Location of Grant Activities: Twenty-two counties in North Central Arkansas

Challenge: The population of the Ozark Foothills is expanding through migration of retired baby boomers seeking warm weather and a low cost of living. The college's service areas include three retirement communities, five hospitals; an urgent care facility in the construction stage; over 20 nursing homes; and numerous medical offices and home health agencies. This population shift is fueling a surge in the need for medical care which, in turn, is exacerbating the existing nursing and allied health labor shortage.

Addressing the Challenge: Three community colleges and their collaborating partners will introduce a Core Curriculum into Nursing and Allied Health (NAH) programs. The curriculum will expose students to a more realistic view of health care at an earlier stage in their college careers while providing NAH students a common foundation of skills. Students will take advantage of career lattices with multiple points of entry and exit, earning industry recognized licensure along the way. Existing NAH programs will be expanded and six new professional health care areas will be offered giving students more choices and helping to alleviate the shortage of skilled workers in North Central Arkansas. The partners will identify alternative labor pools such as incumbent workers seeking to upgrade their skills, immigrants, veterans and older workers, and local residents looking for a new career or a career change.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train and license 746 new healthcare professionals, including Certified Nursing Assistant/Medication Assistive Personnel, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Emergency Medical Services personnel, Respiratory Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, and Health Information Technologists
- Develop a Core Curriculum into Nursing and Allied Health programs

