

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Bellingham Technical College

Grantee: Bellingham Technical College

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Olympic , Northwest, and Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Councils; Grays Harbor College; Olympic College; Peninsula College; Whatcom Tech Prep Consortium; HomePort Learning Center; Quileute Tribal School; Noosack Indian Tribe; Alcoa Intalco Works; PanelTech International PPC; Sierra Pacific Industries; Port of Bremerton; Kitsap SEED Project; Northwest Alliance of Process Technology; Northwest Food Processing Association

Grant Amount: \$1,850,000

Leveraged Amount: \$2,986,169

Location of Grant Activities: Clallum, Jefferson, Kitsap, Grays Harbor, Mason, Lewis, Pacific Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom counties, Washington

Challenge: Washington's Intracoastal region hosts a variety of advanced manufacturing businesses engaged in work that supports the marine trades. Employers are in need of employees who possess high-level skills in technology and processes. This largely rural region lies in the shadow of the Seattle area and has trouble attracting and retaining skilled workers. This problem is exacerbated by an aging workforce.

Addressing the Challenge: Bellingham Technical College's Pipeline to Advanced Manufacturing Careers project will expand training capacity for occupations in the advanced manufacturing industry. Areas of study will include design, production, process development, operations, quality assurance, maintenance, installation and repair of mechanical equipment. The project will enhance math and science learning, expand distance learning, upgrade equipment, hire new college faculty, institutionalize wrap-around student support services, and create pipelines into training programs through high schools, adult and English as a Second Language (ESL) channels. Recruitment efforts will reach rural, low-income populations including immigrants, ESL students, and American Indians.

Projected Outcomes:

- Enrollment in advanced manufacturing programs will increase by 25%, to a total of 1,237
- 927 students will complete training and obtain certificates or degrees
- Of the completers, 752 will enter into related employment and 748 will be retained after six months, at an average wage of \$17.50
- 20 degree and certificate programs will be in place at the four partner colleges