

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Northcentral Technical College

Grantee: Northcentral Technical College (NTC)

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board; College of Menominee Nation; Amron LLC; Greenheck Fan Corp.; Hurd Windows and Doors Inc; Merit Gear Corporation; Schuette Metals; Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce; School District of Abbotsford; Unified School District of Antigo; School District of Bowler; School District of Colby, Mosinee School District; Rosholt School District; School District of Stratford; Wausau School District

Grant Amount: \$1,998,522

Leveraged Amount: \$354,267

Location of Grant Activities: Marathon, Lincoln, Langlade, Taylor, Price, Menominee, Clark, Shawano, Waupaca and Portage counties, Wisconsin

Challenge: In 2004, Wisconsin's manufacturers generated more than \$46 billion in gross product and employed 512,630 workers. Manufacturing is the predominant industry in seven of the 10 counties that Northcentral Technical College (NTC) serves, and manufacturing accounts for 18% of jobs and 25% of payroll in this region. Regional trends show that employment in manufacturing will outpace state and national demands, increasing 7% by 2015. Despite efforts to expand manufacturing programs, NTC continues to experience several capacity constraints. Challenges include insufficient capacity to meet demand for courses, a growing need for a new technical program in wood manufacturing in the region, and industry image issues that make it difficult to attract high quality workers.

Addressing the Challenge: The Specific Production Academics for Regional Knowledge (SPARK) program will increase the manufacturing career pipeline by 250 workers through several strategies. NTC will equip three regional training facilities by developing curriculum for a Wood Production certificate, purchasing welding workstations, and hiring additional faculty. These facilities will deliver instruction and training to 250 program participants. The college will enhance the image of manufacturing, and the community's awareness of the industry through summer camps, welded art contests, jobs, and career fairs. Entry-level skills training will include measurement and math conversion skills, basic lean manufacturing knowledge, and manufacturing culture.

Projected Outcomes:

- 203 adults completing training will enter manufacturing employment
- 250 participants will earn an industry-recognized Quality Manufacturing Certificate
- 50 participants will be alternative high school students participating in learning activities offered by NTC
- 120 participants will earn an additional manufacturing certificate
- 60 participants will earn a manufacturing technical diploma
- 10 participants will earn a Supervisory Management Associate's Degree
- 5 participants will matriculate into a four-year institution