

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Washtenaw Community College

Grantee: Washtenaw Community College (Southeast Michigan Community College Consortium)

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing and Alternative Energies

Key Partners: Henry Ford, Macomb, Mott, Oakland, Schoolcraft, Monroe, St. Clair and Wayne County Community Colleges; The Detroit Regional Chamber (DRC); SEMWAC; Macomb/St. Clair ; Oakland County; Southeast Michigan Community Alliance; Washtenaw County; Michigan Economic Development Corporation; SmartZones/Business Incubators (Automation Alley, SPARK, TechTown); Detroit Regional Economic Partnership; NextEnergy; and 19 Advanced Manufacturing and Alternative Energy employers

Grant Amount: \$2,150,357

Leveraged Amount: \$19,489,770

Location of Grant Activities: Michigan

Challenge: The 10 counties that comprise Southeast Michigan's economy—Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, St. Clair, Livingston, Monroe, Lenawee, Lapeer, and Genesee—depend heavily on manufacturing, which accounts for 14 percent of regional employment. Traditional manufacturing is the backbone of the Southeast Michigan economy, but it is in decline as it experiences significant transitions. Advanced manufacturing employers in Southeastern Michigan report the growing need for workers with advanced skills.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will provide occupational assessments to identify core innovation education and technical competencies for advanced manufacturing and alternative energy; prepare modules in response to employer-identified skill and competency gaps; integrate innovation content into existing technical programs at the community colleges; establish five Centers of Expertise (COE) or technology training in support of target industries among the Southeast Michigan Community College Consortium; provide faculty mentoring/training related to innovation core competencies and technology training developed by the COEs; and train upwards of 3,000 individuals. Student recruitment efforts will focus on incumbent and dislocated workers, and prisoner re-entry populations.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 1,500 individuals in an innovation education certification program
- Train 1,500 individuals in technical degree or certification programs in advanced manufacturing and alternative energy
- 500 workers will be hired by advanced manufacturing or alternative energy employers in the 10-county region that is part of the Employment and Training Administration's Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative.
- Develop Innovation Education learning modules addressing common, industry-defined skill and competency gaps
- Create a stand-alone, portable certificate program in innovation education
- Five SMC3 institutions will be identified as "Centers of Expertise," specializing in a particular area or technology in either Advanced Manufacturing or Alternative Energy.