

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## West Hills Community College District

**Grantee:** West Hills Community College District, a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

**Industry Focus:** Advanced Manufacturing

**Key Partners:** Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, University of California – Davis, Fresno County Workforce Investment Board (FCWIB), Fresno City College, Fresno County Office of Education, West Hills Community College District, Shasta College, Reedley College, State Center Community College District North Centers, and Smart Business Resource Center

**Grant Amount:** \$1,999,753

**Leveraged Amount:** \$2,760,892

**Location of Grant Activities:** California

**Challenge:** Food manufacturing, processing, and distribution is a significant industry sector within the region. The CA Central Valley Food Technology Cluster, which includes food manufacturing, employs more than 200,000 workers. Food manufacturing accounts for \$17.6 billion of Central CA's gross regional product. The FCWIB recently completed an in-depth Employment and Training Gap Analysis for the proposed region. This study indicates that within the next three years the industry will have an additional 20,000 job openings, and there is a significant gap of training available to support these industries growth plans.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The project, Ensuring Agriculture (For) Tomorrow (EAT), will assist industry employers in hiring qualified, well-trained Food Processing Manufacturing and Logistics workers for Fresno, Kings, and Madera counties. The Partnership Colleges will develop an industry-driven training program that provides new, open-entry, modules accessible through distance learning. The result of the training will be a certification of core competencies that is recognized by the manufacturing and logistics industries in the community. The program will offer an articulated career ladder from the Manufacturing Associate Certificate to college-approved certificates and associate's degrees in manufacturing, Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) operation, electronics, Ag mechanics and other technology programs.

### Projected Outcomes:

- The EAT program will develop a new regionwide Manufacturing and Logistics Associate Certificate program, providing industry-approved training that will be adopted by community colleges across the region
- In total, 1,060 participants will be trained, and sustainable capacity will be attained by creating 12 new training programs that will serve 500 students annually after the completion of the grant
- At least 300 trainees will be industry certified in the Manufacturing and Logistics Certificate program
- All trainees will be co-enrolled into WIA in their respective local workforce areas
- The Project Coordinator will track all figures from partner colleges and WIBS to ensure that the program is meeting its goals.