
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Training the Masters of the Building Arts



Grant Amount: \$2,750,000

Grantee: American College of Building Arts

Leveraged Amount: \$2,000,000

Location of Grant Activities: Charleston, SC

Challenge:

Total employment in the construction industry will increase by nearly one million jobs by 2012. However, the industry has difficulty recruiting youth, while many youth interested in construction lack the skills employers need. Further, some entry-level workers lack the basic technical skills needed to advance in the industry.

Addressing the Challenge:

American College of Building Arts, a historic building and preservation school, will help address these challenges through curriculum, the recruitment of instructors, and the design of internship programs. American College of Building Arts will develop and test an innovative, industry-driven curriculum that embodies the apprenticeship model and focuses on the traditional building arts, such as carpentry, ironwork, masonry, timber framing, plasterwork, and stone carving. American College of Building Arts also will establish partnerships with industry organizations for future internship programs. One-Stop Career Centers will play a critical role in recruiting students to participate in the initiative. American College of Building Arts will work with other national and international organizations with shared interests in building arts to develop a sustainable and replicable training and development model that can be implemented throughout the country.

Projected Outcomes:

- A comprehensive four-year skilled crafts and building arts curriculum will be developed, tested, and replicated.
- One hundred fifty to 175 students will be trained in building arts ranging from carpentry to stone carving.
- A final report documenting the results of all activities under the project will be completed, helping facilitate replication.

