

STEM Opportunities in the Workforce System Initiative

Science-Based-Manufacturing Pathways Center

Grantee: Central Massachusetts Regional Employment Board (CMREB)

Industry Focus: Aerospace, biotechnology, and renewable energy

Key Partners: Regional Workforce Investment Boards; Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership; Massachusetts Rapid Response System; Massachusetts Division of Apprenticeship Training; Worcester Community Action Council; Polus Center for Social and Economic Development; four regional technical/vocational high schools; four regional community colleges; Colleges of Worcester Consortium; and 20 STEM employers.

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000

Leveraged Amount: \$1,984,432

Location of Grant Activities: Central Massachusetts, including Franklin, Hampshire, and Worcester Counties

Challenge: More than 13 percent of the region's workers are currently employed in high-wage manufacturing jobs. This has created a population vulnerable to layoffs, due to changes in production technology. More than 60 percent of Massachusetts' next generation manufacturing jobs will require at least an associate's degree, or long-term, on-the-job training. The region is also facing high unemployment among young people, with 13.8 percent of youth in the workforce aged 16 to 24 out of work during 2006. Hampshire County also faces higher-than-average unemployment among veterans, with 7.9 percent of these individuals out of work during some portion of 2006.

Addressing the Challenge: Through One-Stop Career Centers and the creation of an online Virtual Center for Excellence, the project will align and integrate the career-training efforts of 49 partners in education, workforce development, and industry around Science-Based-Manufacturing (S-B-M). Participants will have the option of taking part in on-the-job training programs, and/or earning a career-focused technical diploma, certificate, Associate of Science degree, or Bachelor of Science degree. One-Stops will offer STEM career coaching, and industry partners will provide mentoring services to dislocated workers, veterans, and disadvantaged youth. Participants will be able to access learning via courses delivered online, a Mentors Online Community Center (MOCC), and an online career coach's center.

Projected Outcomes:

- 80 individuals will enroll in certificate-granting training programs
- 66 high school students will enroll in S-B-M programs at technical high schools
- 44 individuals will work toward AS or BS degrees
- 1,200 youth will learn about S-B-M careers through the STEM Pathways Experience
- 100 individuals will enroll in work-based training programs

