
Community-Based Job Training Grants

Southeastern Community College



Grantee: Southeastern Community College

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Region 16 Workforce Investment Act; Pinnacle Foods; American Ordnance; Cryotech; Hennings Automotive; Morse Rubber; KPF Steel Foundry Company; Ziegler Industries; Roquette America; Archway Control; Keokuk Community School District; Central Lee Community School District; Holy Trinity Catholic School; University of Iowa; and Missouri State University.

Grant Amount: \$1,660,285

Leveraged Amount: \$662,340

Location of Grant Activities: Lee County, Iowa

Challenge: Lee County, Iowa is facing a manufacturing worker shortage. Employers are unable to find enough skilled employees to meet current workforce needs as the demand for skilled manufacturing workers is increasing with the retirement of the Baby Boomer generation. Lee County manufacturers need electrical and mechanical production and maintenance workers who have fundamental technical skills, as well as a mastery of quality control and computer skills. Southeastern Community College's (SCC) current curriculum is not able to keep up with the demand of regional employers.

Addressing the Challenge: The Lee County Industrial Skills Training Program (LCIST) will give the SCC capacity to respond to current and pending manufacturing worker shortages by establishing two manufacturing career pathways that provide training for production and maintenance workers. The LCIST project will also provide core competency training for those who are not prepared for manufacturing coursework. SCC will offer online training modules along with hands-on skills labs to reinforce techniques. Both of the production and maintenance curricula will offer a tiered pathway of training, from an entry-level certificate to a four-year degree. The program will be marketed through SCC to enhance the image of manufacturing and awareness of the available careers.

Projected Outcomes:

- 180 participants will enroll in the LCIST program.
- 90 percent of the program completers will earn a certificate.
- 85 percent of students completing an LCIST training level will enter or advance their employment.

