

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Northeast Louisiana Workforce Centers

Grantee: Northeast Louisiana Workforce Centers

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Louisiana Delta Community College; North Delta Regional Planning and Development, Inc; Monroe Chamber of Commerce; Workforce Investment Board SDA-83, Inc; Workforce Investment Board Area 81; Ouachita Career Centers; Louisiana Workforce Commission; Richland Parish School Board; Ouachita Parish School Board; Franklin Parish School Board; Gardner Denver Thomas, Inc; Custom Equipment Design, Inc; Sapa Extrusions, LLC; Steel Fabricators of Monroe, LLC; Sawyer Plastics; Winnsboro Rubber Recycling; Fresh Start; and Leadership Conference of Women Collaborative Ministry.

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000

Leveraged Amount: \$821,755

Location of Grant Activities: Northeast Louisiana

Challenge: The Northeast Louisiana Delta region faces several economic challenges, largely due to an unskilled and under skilled labor force. 62 percent of the workforce has less than a high school diploma. The lack of a skilled workforce impacts industry issues, including whether companies decide to locate, expand, remain, or close. Traditional skills training methods and programs fail to provide the needed industry-defined skills training and education, largely due to the large rural nature and sparse population of local parishes. There is a lack of innovative training delivery systems to reach rural areas that include e-learning models. Finally, there is a lack of advanced manufacturing training programs to provide K-12 early-entry into technical fields.

Addressing the Challenge: Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC) is the only institution of higher learning in Northeast Louisiana that provides advanced manufacturing and operator training, in the field of process technology. Through this project, Northeast Louisiana Workforce Centers will focus on building the educational and skills training capacity of the Louisiana Delta Community College. Building a Louisiana Delta Workforce will serve 250 students over the next three years, providing students with an industry-defined, advanced manufacturing training that will enable workers with the skills required to succeed in local and regional industries. The project will also design and implement innovative training delivery systems to reach rural areas, including e-learning and virtual labs; developing a skills training program in collaboration with K-12, which will provide for early entry into technical fields and dual enrollment; and developing skills ladders that allow trainees to enter the manufacturing field with opportunities to progress into process technology.

Projected Outcomes:

- 250 participants will be served.
- 125 participants will complete the program and receive a degree or certificate.
- 72 percent of participants will enter employment of which 65 participants that complete the training will enter training-related employment.

