

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Southeast Tennessee Development District

Grantee: Southeast Tennessee Development District

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Chattanooga State Technical and Community College (CCSTC); Tennessee One Stop Career Center System; Tennessee Technology Center at Athens (TTCA); East Tech Company; Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance; Chattanooga Manufacturers Association; Local Workforce Investment Area 5; Tennessee Valley Authority; Aerisyn; Miller Industries; Alstom Power; Applied Thermal Coating; HEATEC/ASTEC; Middle College High School; and the State of Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Grant Amount: \$1,962,660

Leveraged Amount: \$711,750

Location of Grant Activities: Chattanooga and Athens, Tennessee

Challenge: The Tri-state region is suffering from a shortage of skilled welders and trained advanced manufacturing employees. The area is unable to keep pace with the demand for advancing energy, automotive, and transportation projects that are in development. The nuclear sector's resurgence into the southeast region will require an increasing number of highly qualified welders. In addition, Volkswagen recently announced that it will create at least 2,000 jobs in southeast Tennessee for skilled automotive workers. CSTCC and TTCA lack sufficient resources, equipment, facilities, and curriculum to support these training needs in the region.

Addressing the Challenge: The Southeast Regional Welding and Advanced Training Institute will increase the pipeline of skilled welders and trained advanced manufacturing employees in the workforce by upgrading equipment, increasing training space, creating non-traditional class schedules, and partnering with local industries to build career awareness and encourage training at the Institute. The courses offered at CSTCC and TTCA will lead to a certificate, degree, and/or apprenticeship credential. The program will target incumbent and emerging workers, non-traditional populations, and veterans in need of further training.

Projected Outcomes:

- 500 participants will complete certificate or degree programs, or receive apprenticeship credentials.
- 86 percent of participants who receive a certificate, apprenticeship, and/or degree will enter employment in advanced manufacturing industries or advance in employment through an apprenticeship program.
- 88 percent of new hires will retain employment for 9 months after program completion.

