

# **Community-Based Job Training Grants**

*Pensacola Junior College*

**Grantee:** Pensacola Junior College

**Industry Focus:** Information Technology

**Key Partners:** Workforce Escarosa, Inc.; Escarosa Workforce Board; the University of West Florida; Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition; Escambia County School District; Santa Rosa County School District; TECHSOFT, Inc.; Baptist Health Care; Whitney Bank; Avalex Technologies; e-mail security company, AppRiver; Hixardt Technologies; and the INFRAGARD association

**Grant Amount:** \$1,922,914

**Leveraged Amount:** \$1,628,277

**Location of Grant Activities:** Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, Florida

**Challenge:** The Pensacola area has a high poverty rate, low wages, low high school graduation rates, and low levels of literacy. This area will suffer further in spring 2008 as the Pensacola Naval Complex is affected by Base Realignment and Closure actions. At the same time, there is an increasing concern about the protection of corporate and government data, which demands well-trained, certified employees. Skills are highly valued and wages improve considerably for persons with an IT education, but Pensacola Junior College struggles to produce more programs and certification completers due to lack of trained faculty and rising student costs.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The PJC Institute for Information Assurance will address the need for trained personnel by clarifying industry needs, training faculty, increasing courses in 20 IT areas, funding tuition and certification fees for students, subsidizing the cost of certification exams for employees, installing a remote access system for distance learning, supporting summer camps, and holding an Information Assurance Security Conference. Targeted groups to be recruited for training include non-traditional students, career changers, minorities, disabled individuals, veterans, displaced homemakers and incumbent workers.

**Projected Outcomes:**

- 1,030 individuals will be served by all of the training activities, from a current baseline of 235;
- 168 (85% of program graduates) will enter employment, the military or continue their education;
- 337 employees, 95% of those already in the field, will earn new or additional certifications, with average hourly wages of \$27.93
- 245 employees will receive promotions or wage gains
- 205 students will participate in the summer program, with curricula designed for the target student populations
- 18 new certifications and 10 new or revised courses will be added
- There will be new AA/AAS degree frameworks for the Information Security Field, available to all of the Florida Community College System