

# **Community-Based Job Training Grants**

## *Kentucky Community and Technical College System*

**Grantee:** Kentucky Community and Technical College System

**Industry Focus:** Advanced Manufacturing

**Key Partners:** West Kentucky and Green River Workforce Investment Boards; Hopkinsville, Henderson and Madisonville Community Colleges; Murray State University, Murray-Calloway County and Mayfield-Graves County Area Technical Centers; County Public School Districts (Christian, Carlisle, Hickman, Henderson, Lyon, Muhlenburg); FP Inc.; T.RAD North America Inc.; Propulsys Inc.; Meritor Suspension Systems Company; DANA Corp.; Continental Mills; Amfine Chemical Corp; Pella Corporation; Kentucky Association of Manufacturers; Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Southern Pennyrile; Pennyrile Industrial Managers Association; Chambers of Commerce (Hopkinsville and Christian County, Muhlenburg, Paducah Area); Christian County Economic Development Council; Economic Development Corporation of Madisonville-Hopkins County

**Grant Amount:** \$2,388,552

**Leveraged Amount:** \$3,343,100

**Location of Grant Activities:** Montgomery and 18 western Kentucky counties

**Challenge:** Advanced manufacturing is an important industry in Kentucky, generating one-fifth of Gross State Product, ranking it 5<sup>th</sup> among states in manufacturing intensity. Mass layoffs continue to occur as the industry struggles to compete. Three areas of need have been identified: lack of a flexible and easily accessible core/advanced training curriculum, lack of a seamless technical worker career ladder with multiple entry/exit points, and lack of a pipeline of future workers due to a negative image of manufacturing.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The Industrial Talent Enhancement Model (ITEM) will bring together key partners to address manufacturers' training needs in the region through a three-level plan: 1) assessment, foundational and remedial skills training, 2) basic manufacturing skills training, and 3) upper-level industrial maintenance training. To build a future pipeline for the industry, the model will implement a mentoring program staffed by manufacturing employees and aimed at students grades 6-12. Capacity will be built by adding training personnel and equipment, outfitting a flexible schedule/multi-purpose training center, deploying a mobile training center, and developing a website for marketing and management.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- Enrollment in the training program will increase from 250 to 1,750. This will include 1,500 trainees receiving credentials and 250 students being mentored.
- A total of 1,200 will enter employment, including both those entering the workforce and incumbent workers who will get higher paying jobs, with average earnings of \$12.50 or more per hour
- 975 program participants will receive promotions or wage gains
- Products developed will include the ITEM Career Ladder, the BBBS/KAM Mentoring Program, and the MSU Road Scholars Outreach Initiative

