
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Geospatial Technology Apprenticeship Project (GTAP)



Grant amount: \$1,565,227

Leveraged amount: \$280,050 in cash and in-kind contributions from the USM Geospatial Workforce Development Center, its partners, and stakeholders

Grantee: University of Southern Mississippi (USM)

Key Partners: Lockheed Martin, Mississippi Enterprise for Technology Companies, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Mississippi Community College Foundation, Pearl River Community College, NASA, EAST Project, WIN Job Centers.

Location of Grant Activities: Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Challenge

The geospatial technology industry is an emerging high-growth sector of the U.S. economy that is expected to reach \$30 billion in annual revenues by 2005, up from \$5 billion in 2002. There is an immediate and anticipated need to fill tens of thousands of positions in geospatial technology and related fields.

Addressing the Challenge

ETA's grant to USM will support the establishment of apprenticeship standards for geospatial technicians. USM and its industry partners will develop state-of-the-art training models and materials to engage the potential geospatial workforce, implement innovative on-the-job and classroom training delivery methodologies, and develop detailed exploration and mapping of career ladders and lattices in the geospatial industry. Importantly, USM will also develop a geospatial training, technical assistance, to ensure that the demand for geospatial workers is met throughout the U.S.

Project Outcomes

The GTAP project goals include the development of geospatial technology apprenticeship standards, design and implementation of a geospatial technology apprenticeship program that utilizes a combination of on-the-job training and theoretical instruction, increased community college capacity to offer geospatial technology certification and technician/technology programs, and identification of career paths and lattices for the geospatial workforce.

Sustainable Impact

USM's partnerships with NASA, Lockheed Martin, and regional economic development and technology organizations ensure that the project will continue to be driven by the industry and guided by the industry's developing workforce needs. USM's focus on capacity-building and technical assistance for the public workforce system will ensure that the successful models developed in the GTAP pilot will be widely disseminated, replicated, and sustained through the One-Stop Career Center infrastructure.

