

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Louisiana Technical College

Grantee: Louisiana Technical College (LTC)

Industry Focus: Fossil Energy

Key Partners: LTC Greater Acadiana Region Technical College Campus; Iberia Industrial Development Foundation; Workforce Investment Board #40; Workforce Investment Board #41; Port of Iberia Association; Baker Hughes Inteq; Wood Group.

Grant Amount: \$1,151,287

Leveraged Amount: \$1,156,060

Location of Grant Activities: South-central Louisiana parishes of Lafayette, Acadia, St. Landry, Iberia, Vermillion, St. Martin, Evangeline

Challenge: The labor force in oil and gas is rapidly reaching retirement age. Industry image problems make it difficult to attract new employees. Tomorrow's workforce must be trained to support long-term renewable energy solutions such as solar power. The Acadiana region is currently in desperate need of skilled employees in various industrial divisions and competition among sectors for employees is fierce. In addition, the region has an unemployment rate of 3 percent or below. Technical colleges are in need of capacity building activities to properly train energy sector employees for today and tomorrow's workforce needs.

Addressing the Challenge: Outreach and pipeline development activities will be implemented to attract new talent to the industry. New energy technology training programs will be implemented to build the capacity of regional colleges. Capacity building will consist of a virtual oil platform tool and training equipment for solar energy. The project will use curricula designed by Walla Walla Community College in Washington state. Through this program students will earn Energy Systems Technology Certificates in areas including air conditioning/refrigeration, mechanical, and electrical. Solar power training will be built into the electrical curriculum to train students for careers in Louisiana's growing solar industry. Due to the tremendous need for welders in the region, a mobile welding lab will be utilized to provide job-site training for current workers and to train prisoners who are soon to be released.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 440 students, emphasizing enrollment of non-traditional populations
- Incorporate the virtual oil and gas Platform into existing training programs
- Incorporate solar power instructional modules into existing training programs
- Provide mobile training for incumbent workers in high demand occupations

