Grant Amount: $1,546,463

Grantee: High Plains Technology Center

Key Partners: BP, Key Energy Services, Pool Well Services, Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association of Oklahoma, Unit Drilling, Patterson-UTI Drilling, Northwest Workforce Development Council, Workforce Oklahoma, Oklahoma Independent Oil Producer's Association

Leveraged Amount: $528,683 in cash and in-kind contributions from High Plains Technology Center, Unit Drilling, Key Energy Services, Pool Well Services, Devon Energy, and other oil and gas industry partners

Location of Grant Activities: Woodward, Oklahoma

Challenge:
Despite low and shrinking total oil and gas employment, the energy industry is experiencing high turnover and retirement rates. Projections show increasing demand for workers in Oklahoma oil and gas extraction occupations, while simultaneously projecting heavy declines in the supply of skilled oil and gas extraction workers.

Addressing the Challenge:
The HPTC, in consultation with partnering energy employers, will develop and provide at least 50 industry-driven courses for new and incumbent oil and gas workers in Northwest Oklahoma, Southwest Kansas and the Texas Panhandle. Courses will be developed and delivered in both English and Spanish to address the changing demographics of this workforce. In addition, HPTC will serve in a consulting role to the region's oil and gas employers, better connecting them to existing workforce development resources and initiatives.

Project Outcomes:
In less than two years, High Plains Technology Center exceeded its goals by training 1,703 new and incumbent workers in oil and gas extraction technologies. This training has resulted in increased skill levels, retention and advancement for workers. Additionally, the grant has decreased turnover and related costs and increased productivity for employers.