

# STEM Opportunities in the Workforce System Initiative

## *STEM Works Indiana*

**Grantee:** Indianapolis Private Industry Council

**Industry Focus:** Biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, and information technology

**Key Partners:** Workforce Investment Board for Marion County (IN); State Workforce Innovation Council; Central Indiana Regional Workforce Board; WorkSights; the One-Stop system; Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Purdue University Technical Assistance Partnership; Ivy Tech Community College; Indianapolis Public Schools; Jobs for America's Graduates; Central Nine Career Center; Common Goal; Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce; USA Funds; BioCrossroads, Conexus Indiana; Techpoint; and Junior Achievement.

**Grant Amount:** \$1,999,946

**Leveraged Amount:** \$796,044

**Location of Grant Activities:** Central Indiana, including Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Morgan, and Shelby Counties

**Challenge:** Central Indiana's cutting-edge industries fuel the regional economy and serve as magnets to entice new companies to the area. The demand for STEM-ready workers in Central Indiana is already strong. In fact, employers requested two-thirds of the region's H1-B visas for biotechnology, information technology and engineering occupations in 2006. Employer demand for workers that attract the most H-1B workers is expected to grow at least two percent a year, while job growth in the rest of the economy may be half that rate. Nearly 1,000 new STEM opportunities are expected in Central Indiana each year through 2012, both to replace current workers and to fill new positions generated by growth.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The Indianapolis Private Industry Council, through STEMWorks Indiana, seeks to create a comprehensive pipeline initiative to establish educational and occupational opportunities for two vital audiences: dislocated workers and disadvantaged students. STEMWorks Indiana, in conjunction with its partners, will aid central Indiana's burgeoning industries by exposing young people to STEM occupations and focusing on updating the skills of dislocated workers. STEMWorks Indiana will utilize current certificate and associate's degree programs, including accelerated programs in STEM disciplines and college-level courses for high school students, to provide training and ongoing support to ensure participant success and placement in gateway jobs.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- Increase enrollment in STEM-related training by 300 (200 dislocated workers and 100 disadvantaged youth);
- 255 will earn credentials;
- 240 dislocated workers and disadvantaged youth will enter employment related to training received; and
- 600 Indiana One-Stop employment advisers will take online training to better assist candidates for STEM training and employment.

