
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative School At Work (SAW)



Grant amounts: \$1,176,000 (phase 1) and \$2,000,000 (phase 2)

Leveraged amount: \$2,715,682 in cash and in-kind support provided by Catalyst Learning, participating hospitals, community colleges, and state and local WIBs

Grantee: Catalyst Learning

Key Partners: WIBs in local sites; Anne Arundel Community College

Grant Activities will take place in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, & Virginia

Challenge

Entry-level hospital workers often lack access to the educational opportunities and support required to upgrade their skills and advance to higher-paying positions.

Addressing the Challenge

The project tests a distance learning delivery system designed to advance low-wage/low-skill workers in entry-level health care occupations. The SAW model expands access to basic skills training and work-related education for adults in entry-level jobs in the health care field using worksite-based television broadcast and Internet instruction and study in combination with support from adult education experts and hospital coaching staff.

Project Outcomes

Under the initial grant award, SAW enrolled 366 participants at 28 hospitals. The full program was completed by 68% of enrollees. More than 93% of completers demonstrated increased knowledge, and 17% of completers were promoted as a result of their work in the program. Additionally, 37% of completers enrolled in continuing education programs to support their career advancement. The second grant expands the project to nine more states and 60 hospitals, serving 775 more employees.

Sustainable Impact

The cornerstone of the program is the strong partnership and support from participating hospitals, local community colleges, Catalyst Learning, and participating WIBs. Catalyst Learning will ensure the expansion and continued success of this proven adult learning and career advancement model through enhanced integration and partnerships with the state and local public workforce system, hospitals, health care associations, and community colleges. Catalyst Learning's strong commitment to career advancement and continuing education develops the current entry-level health care workforce and simultaneously opens new opportunities for new health care workforce entrants.

