Grantee: Pulaski Technical College

Industry Focus: Aerospace

Key Partners: Central Arkansas Workforce Investment Board; Dassault Falcon Jet; Hawker Beechcraft Services; ASGI LLC; Arloe Designs; Custom Aircraft Cabinetry; Pulaski County Special School District; North Little Rock School District; Little Rock School District; and the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics.

Grant Amount: $1,506,652

Leveraged Amount: $1,128,690

Location of Grant Activities: Little Rock region, Pulaski, Lonoke, and Saline counties, Arkansas

Challenge: Pulaski Technical College joins partners in industry, education, and the workforce investment system to maximize the impact of talent development for future employees of the aerospace industry in the Little Rock region. More than 10,000 Arkansans are currently employed by the aerospace industry, and the industry is projected to add significant numbers of new jobs to the regional economy with the expansion of local employers in the next few years. The Pulaski Tech Aviation Center is planning to double its capacity in the Airframe and Powerplant program, but regulatory obstacles are keeping facility expansion from doubling unless the college also doubles its inventory of high-cost equipment and tools.

Addressing the Challenge: Pulaski Technical College and its partners will create technical certificates and an associate's degree program in Aircraft Manufacturing Technology. The strategic partnership will work to double enrollment in the current Aircraft Maintenance Technology two-year degree program. An introductory aviation course will be created for secondary students in Pulaski County. Pulaski Tech will purchase equipment and supplies, contract with an instructional designer and hire new faculty to overcome its current capacity constraints.

Projected Outcomes:

- Total annual enrollment of 300 students in Aircraft Maintenance and Aircraft Manufacturing associate's degree programs by the end of the three-year grant period.
- Total enrollment increase of 200 students (100 in Aircraft Maintenance and 100 in Aircraft Manufacturing) that is attributable to the U.S. DOL investment in the program.
- During the life of the grant, up to 600 individuals will participate in training activities, including high school students and students in Aviation Maintenance Technology or Aviation Manufacturing Technology programs.
- Up to 512 students will receive credentials of a technical certificate or associate's degree in either Aircraft Manufacturing Technology or Aircraft Maintenance Technology or FAA licensure in the Airframe and/or Powerplant program during the three-year grant period.