

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Bluegrass Community and Technical College

Grantee: Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC)

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board, The Loudon Company, Central Baptist Hospital, Fayette County Public Schools, Mercer County Senior High School, Harrodsburg Area Technology Center, Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, and Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center

Grant Amount: \$1,416,947

Leveraged Amount: \$1,129,877

Location of Grant Activities: Kentucky

Challenge: Ninety percent of the counties in Kentucky are designated as medically underserved areas – including half of the counties in the Bluegrass region. Workforce projections for the Bluegrass area include nursing among fast growing occupations, with an increased demand of 33 percent from 2000 to 2010.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will expand the training capacity of Bluegrass Community and Technical College's nursing program by adding facility space, lab equipment, and instruction; and by providing increased access to and success in nursing education through additional opportunities and supports. Nursing classes will be offered at worksites, in rural areas, and as dual credit courses in secondary schools. Advanced training through the development of specialty modules and an apprenticeship program will further enhance training. Collaborative efforts with secondary schools, workforce investment boards, adult education providers, and industry partners will develop a pipeline for students entering nursing education programs. Career pathways will be strengthened to enable aspiring nurses to advance through different levels of nursing education. The establishment of a Nursing Student Resource Center will provide specialized assistance including intensive advising, tutoring, and a mentoring program. Scholarship funds will be increased to broaden access to nursing education for students of all income levels, including under-represented minorities.

Projected Outcomes:

- 1,615 individuals will participate in training activities
- An average of 200 nurses will be added to the region's workforce each year
- BCTC's traditional nursing programs will be supplemented with non-traditional learning opportunities, such as night and weekend training, web-based courses, and apprenticeships
- Lab equipment and teaching tools will be updated to reflect current advances in the workplace
- Additional faculty and specialized support services will provide nursing students with more individualized assistance to improve their preparation for success in a nursing career

