

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Casper College

Grantee: Casper College

Industry Focus: Energy

Key Partners: PacifiCorp, Casper Workforce Center, and Natrona County School District #1

Grant Amount: \$1,015,602

Leveraged Amount: \$288,436

Location of Grant Activities: Wyoming, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California

Challenge: Although an increasing number of people are discovering the opportunities and high wages available in the power generation industry, an adequate number of skilled workers are not readily available to fill the need. It is projected that within the next 10 years operation and maintenance personnel representing 49 percent of the current operator positions will retire.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will train power plant operation and maintenance personnel so that they will have the resources to manage a variety of critical situations they may face on the job. This project will: 1) improve plant performance and reliability; 2) address the shortage of operators as the workforce ages and retires; and 3) give workers the opportunity to advance up the career ladder from auxiliary operator to control room operator and eventually to management opportunities. The partnership has identified four areas of capacity constraints, including: 1) facility modification; 2) faculty; 3) curriculum; and 4) equipment needs.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 45 people over the project period as power generating plant operators, with participants earning an Associate of Applied Science degree from Casper College upon satisfactory completion of the program
- Develop curriculum for the *Power Plant Operator Program*
- Modify facility and upgrade equipment to enable for the development of a blended teaching delivery system including online as well as classroom and lab experience

