

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## College of Eastern Utah – San Juan Campus

**Grantee:** College of Eastern Utah – San Juan Campus

**Industry Focus:** Healthcare

**Key Partners:** San Juan Department of Workforce Services, Kayenta Health Center, Utah Navajo Health Systems, San Juan Health Services District, NATIVE District, San Juan School District, San Juan Department of Rehabilitation Services, San Juan Family Learning Centers, and San Juan County Commission

**Grant Amount:** \$1,260,893

**Leveraged Amount:** \$1,928,450

**Location of Grant Activities:** Utah

**Challenge:** Nursing is the most difficult occupation in which employers are having to fill across Utah. Utah ranks 49th in the nurse-to-population ratio, indicating a critical shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs). The Navajo Area Indian Health Service is the largest provider of health care services to the Navajo people and is currently experiencing a severe nursing shortage with a vacancy rate of nearly 25 percent. Healthcare facilities in the target area provide services in communities with populations ranging from 55 percent to 99 percent American Indian. The *Nursing Needs Survey*, December 2005, indicated that only 32 percent of registered nurses and 23 percent of LPNs are American Indian. Employment projections from 2002-2012 for healthcare is 28.8 percent compared to 13.8 percent for non-health care occupations.

**Addressing the Challenge:** Insufficient facilities are a major factor limiting the number of nurses that the San Juan Campus has been able to train which, in turn, impacts the number of instructors who teach. Due to the extreme rural isolation of the target area, technology-based learning (TBL) will play a major role. Partners have, and will continue to provide, infrastructure to accommodate Internet Protocol (IP) video, Internet, Intranet, Web-based e-learning, student-centered software for both instruction and tutoring, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software for monitoring student outcomes.

### Projected Outcomes:

- Enroll and train 495 participants in health professions education/training programs.
- Additional lab and classroom facilities
- Develop alternative delivery modes, including work-based training and technology-based distance learning applications
- Outreach for developing new applicant pools, particularly American Indian, youth, non-traditional, and incumbent workers
- Increase health professions education/training facilities at the College from a single nursing lab and classroom that serves a maximum of 20 nursing students annually; to three labs, two traditional and five distance education classrooms, and four faculty offices capable of serving approximately 90 nursing and allied health students annually

