

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Gulf Coast Community College

Grantee: Gulf Coast Community College

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: The Regional Workforce Development Board; Workforce Training Center; Workforce One-Stop Center; Gulf Coast Medical Center; Northwest Florida Medical Center; Jackson Hospital; Weems Memorial Hospital; Doctor's Memorial Hospital; HealthSouth Hospital; Smile Specialists Orthodontics; Steven Meyers, DMD; David Hurst, DMD; Florida's Great Northwest and Bay County Economic Development Alliance; Foundation for Florida's Community Colleges; Bay County School District; Gulf County Schools; Franklin County Schools; Florida State University; St. Andrew Community Medical Center; and Early Childhood Education and Care.

Grant Amount: \$1,999,982

Leveraged Amount: \$13,241,890

Location of Grant Activities: Panama City, Florida

Challenge: Northwest Florida healthcare employers are experiencing a significant shortage in skilled workers to meet the healthcare needs of the region. According to Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation, annual openings in healthcare occupations are projected at 3,549 in Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties. There is an industry demand for quality training that utilizes relevant technologies in courses to better prepare students for future employment. Current training programs need to be brought up to date in order to prepare workers for the jobs they will perform.

Addressing the Challenge: The Northwest Florida Health Care Initiative will increase the number of qualified healthcare professionals by removing barriers to increase enrollment in healthcare programs. The project will make the following investments: 1) improve training for students enrolled in healthcare programs by incorporating current technology; 2) increase student access to equipment and technology currently used in the healthcare industry; 3) develop products that will increase the college's capacity to deliver healthcare workforce training that meets the needs of employers; and 4) increase the technical knowledge of healthcare faculty. The Northwest Florida Health Care Initiative will purchase up-to-date equipment; provide professional development opportunities for faculty; develop new courses and programs; incorporate simulators to add clinical opportunities for students; create a project Web site; develop a variety of outreach materials; and implement a dissemination plan.

Projected Outcomes:

- 1,710 participants will receive training.
- 1,113 individuals will benefit from program enhancements.
- 52 new courses will be created: 5 by Year 1, 24 Year 2, and 23 Year 3.
- 45 new professional development opportunities for faculty and staff will be established.
- 2,823 participants will benefit from expanded faculty and staff training.

