

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## *Parkland College*

**Grantee:** Parkland College

**Industry Focus:** Advanced Manufacturing

**Key Partners:** Parkland College; Champaign Consortium; Kraft Foods; Plastipak; Flex-n-Gate/Guardian West; Education for Employment System; United Church of Christ Campus Ministry; and Community United Church of Christ.

**Grant Amount:** \$1,564,472

**Leveraged Amount:** \$1,514,668

**Location of Grant Activities:** Champaign and Urbana, Illinois

**Challenge:** Since 1962, Kraft Foods has been a vital component to the local economy of Champaign County, Illinois. With a recent wave of retirements, and a projected 300 additional retirements eligible by 2010, Kraft Foods has a critical shortage of staff skilled to maintain plant equipment, thus affecting production. This lack of trained workers impacts other manufacturers, both indirectly and directly through Kraft. Parkland College has worked to help train skilled plant workers but does not have the capacity to train both incumbent and new workers due to a lack of faculty and equipment.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The Skilled Manufacturing Technicians – Partnership (SMT), consisting of area employers, K-12 schools, the local workforce investment system, and Parkland College, will develop a skilled worker talent pipeline. SMT will accomplish this by: helping incumbent workers of area manufacturers get the training they need for higher skilled, higher paying jobs; engaging high school students in manufacturing career awareness activities; and training potential new workers for area manufacturing and maintenance jobs. Training courses include: an industry-sponsored Skilled Manufacturing Technician Associates in Applied Arts program aimed at the unemployed and underemployed; an Industrial Technology program aimed at incumbent workers; and a dual-credit program aimed at high school students. To accomplish its goal, Parkland College will obtain state-of-the-art, industry specific equipment; lease space for a larger laboratory; and provide on-campus training, internships, and mentoring for students.

**Projected Outcomes:**

- 72 participants will be served.
- 58 participants will complete education and training activities.
- 75% of participants, who were not employed on the first date of participation, will enter employment.

