

Community-Based Job Training Grants

South Central College

Grantee: South Central College

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: South Central Workforce Council; South West Workforce Councils; Minnesota West Community & Technical College; Southeast Technical Institute; Mankato Public Schools; South Central Service Cooperative; Minnesota Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence (MnCEME); 3M; Braas; Cambria; Dotson; Festo; General Electric; Haldeman-Homme; Powermation; Rockwell; V-TEK; South Central College's Mechatronics Engineering Technology (MECA) Advisory Committee; and Minnesota Valley Action Council.

Grant Amount: \$1,986,313

Leveraged Amount: \$1,264,913

Location of Grant Activities: Southwestern Minnesota

Challenge: Twenty-four percent of the private sector jobs in southwestern Minnesota are in manufacturing. That accounts for the highest of any region in the state and double the national average of 12%. In a robust manufacturing sector, there is a critical need for highly skilled workers with training in future technology. The current education and training capacity at South Central College (SCC) is insufficient to deliver the training necessary to meet the skilled workforce demands of the advanced manufacturing industry.

Addressing the Challenge: SCC will establish a Mechatronics Technology Education Center (MTEC) on its campus. The campus will focus on providing training to incumbent and displaced workers through a hybrid of instruction. It will also build a pipeline of future workers by implementing seamless career pathways. Collaborating with its industry partners, the MTEC will develop a curriculum that will teach the skills necessary to obtain and/or advanced in an advanced manufacturing career. The MTEC will provide certificate, degree, and credit programs to help satisfy both individual and organizational needs.

Projected Outcomes:

- 545 participants will enter the education and training activities.
- 90 percent of participants will complete the program.
- 85 percent will enter mechatronics related employment and 90 percent will be retained.
- 10 sophomore level courses will be developed to complete the core curriculum for SCC's MECA program.

