

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## Montana State University – Billings College of Technology

**Grantee:** Montana State University- Billings College of Technology

**Industry Focus:** Energy

**Key Partners:** Billings Job Service One-Stop Center, Glendive Job Service Workforce Center, South Central JobLINC, MT Dept. of Labor, MT Department of Labor & Industry Apprenticeship Programs, Big Sky Economic Development Authority, Dawson County Economic Development Council, Celebrate Billings Education Committee, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Dawson Community College, MSU-Billings College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning, Northern Wyoming Community College District, College of Eastern Utah, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center, Montana Dept. of Commerce, Carpenter Creek, LLC, PPL Montana, NorthWestern Energy, Stillwater Mining Co., Ballard Petroleum, Nance Petroleum, Montana Contractor's, Hancock Enterprises, ConocoPhillipsBillings Refinery, Office of Public Instruction (K-12), State of Montana Tech Prep Office, and School District #2 Career Center

**Grant Amount:** \$1,998,885

**Leveraged Amount:** \$906,832

**Location of Grant Activities:** Montana

**Challenge:** Growth in the energy sector is creating employment gains for other Montana economic sectors. An example of the economic impact of one emerging local energy project is the Bull Mountain Energy development in Musselshell County, which is 40 miles from Billings. With the operation of existing coal mines, the addition of a rail link, a permitted 300 Megawatt power plant, and a proposed coal to liquids facility, energy-related employment is slated to increase by over 4,200 jobs with annual wages over \$260 million. The direct impact of the construction phase of the project is estimated at 6,812 full-time equivalent jobs with added indirect jobs approaching nearly 10,000. Statistics from the Montana Dept. of Labor and Industry also show that a large number of energy sector workers are nearing retirement. Therefore, it is crucial that new workers be trained to enter this high demand, high growth industry.

**Addressing the Challenge:** Training and capacity-building activities to address this need will include developing an industry-driven model for just-in-time training programs in the energy industry, including mining, oil and gas exploration and production, power generation, biofuels, bioproduct development, renewable resources and energy-related construction. Specific skills include: welding, diesel, hydraulics, pipeline construction, mining technology, surveying, geographic information systems (GIS), global positioning satellite (GPS), instrumentation, process operations and control.

### Projected Outcomes:

- Train 1,010 individuals for the energy sectors including oil and gas, refining, power generation and distribution, and mining
- Establish an Energy Workforce Training Center that will focus on energy sectors. The Center will also support the DOL-funded WIRED Initiative through training programs and degrees that serve the developing biofuels industry

