

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Central Community College

Grantee: Central Community College

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Greater Lincoln and Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment System One-Stop Career Centers; Southeast Community College; East-Central Health Department; Nebraska Hospital Association; Nebraska Center for Nursing; Area Health Education Centers; University of Nebraska Medical School; Heartland, Norris, Wilber Claytonia, and Milford High Schools; 17 Central Community College Tech Prep High Schools; Nebraska Department of Education; and several regional hospitals, healthcare centers and healthcare providers.

Grant Amount: \$2,106,694

Leveraged Amount: \$3,094,963

Location of Grant Activities: 40 Nebraska counties

Challenge: Nebraska is experiencing an acute skilled labor shortage in healthcare services. There is a particular need for occupational and physical therapy assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and dental and medical assistants. The shortage is made worse by the absence of financial support for new and existing healthcare programs, the vastness of the region, and inadequate representation of local immigrant groups among the labor force.

Addressing the Challenge: In order to address the critical healthcare workforce shortage, the “Healthcare Synergy” project will focus on developing new Occupational and Physical Therapy Assistant programs through: 1) curriculum development and the integration of technology-based learning; 2) implementation of innovative training and capacity building strategies; 3) career awareness and outreach activities; 4) high school early-entry/tech prep in Medical Terminology, and 5) Limited English Proficiency (LEP) healthcare classes. A total of 1,400 community college students, incumbent workers, secondary students and individuals from untapped labor pools will participate in this training. The project offers a regional approach to educating members of the workforce, high school teachers, and English as a Second Language students in new technological advances and career opportunities in high growth/high demand healthcare industries.

Projected Outcomes:

- Enroll 32 in Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) and Physiotherapist Assistant (PTA) programs
- Enroll 60 in the LPN to RN program
- 220 individuals will earn LPN Mental Health Certificates

