

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Central Community College

Grantee: Central Community College

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment System; Productivity Inc.; Cardinal Tool and Die; Royal Plastics, Inc.; Dramco Tool and Die Co.; Nebraska Advanced Manufacturing Coalition; FutureForce Nebraska; and Bellvue University.

Grant Amount: \$2,172,876

Leveraged Amount: \$3,634,514

Location of Grant Activities: Central Nebraska

Challenge: Central Nebraska employs 29,486 workers in the field of manufacturing, and is projecting a 15 percent increase between 2008 and 2018. The shortage of workers with specific advanced manufacturing and mechatronics skills is creating an economic development challenge for the Central Nebraska region. As a result, five out of 10 manufacturing job vacancies are not being filled.

Addressing the Challenge: The Molding Careers to Learn, Earn \$, and Live project will focus on the development of the Midwest Center for Plastics and Design (MCP&D), which will serve to train and retain high-skilled employees in advanced manufacturing and mechatronics. The programs will redesign existing curricula to create two new associate degree programs, one for Design Technology and another for Occupational Technology. Components of the program will integrate workforce, economic development, and education resources, coupled with industry-driven curriculum. This will provide a learning environment that meets workplace specifications; articulates curriculum across educational areas; and creates a range of student recruitment and support mechanisms.

Projected Outcomes:

- 2,542 participants will be served.
- 80 percent of the total number of participants will enter employment.
- 86 percent of the total number of participants will retain employment.
- The average hourly pay of \$14.88 for program participants will be achieved.

