

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Northeast Community College

Grantee: Northeast Community College

Industry Focus: Energy – Ethanol

Key Partners: Nebraska Community College System, Nebraska Workforce Development, Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Tech Prep, Educational Services Units, Siouxland Ethanol, Aquila, ADM Corn Processing, Fagen, Inc., Nebraska Corn Board, The National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center at Southern Illinois University, BioNebraska Life Sciences Association, Midwest Renewable Energy, Nebraska Ethanol Board, and National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Grant Amount: \$1,999,999

Leveraged Amount: \$1,923,871

Location of Grant Activities: Nebraska

Challenge: The ethanol industry is in need of workers with laboratory skills, computer skills, distillation and fermentation skills, as well as effective communication and teamwork skills. In Nebraska, the industry has identified a need for training programs beyond internal programs available in the plant to prepare the workforce for careers in this field.

Addressing the Challenge: Northeast Community College and its coalition of community colleges will implement a statewide initiative to establish a continuum of education and offer career development activities and a broad array of short-term training opportunities for incumbent workers to meet the growing needs of the ethanol industry. Capacity building activities will include the development of an industry-driven management system, provision of comprehensive faculty professional development, development and validation of curriculum (via traditional and distance learning formats), creation of a learning environment that meets the specifications of the workplace (including space, equipment, and curriculum materials), articulation of all curriculum across the educational continuum, and creation of a wide range of student recruitment and support mechanisms. Traditional and nontraditional students will be targeted, including displaced workers, women, minorities, and incumbent workers.

Projected Outcomes:

- 1,380 participants will be trained.
- Develop a new Associate of Applied Science Degree in Ethanol Production and Management that articulates to the local four-year college for a bachelor's degree in several degree areas.
- Host an Ethanol Production and Management Symposium to begin in Year 3 and to be held annually each year thereafter.
- Implement dual credit and ethanol career exploration opportunities for secondary school students.

