

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Southwestern Oregon Community College

Grantee: Southwestern Oregon Community College (SOCC)

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: South Coast Business Employment Corporation; Oregon Economic and Community Development Department; South Coast Development Council; Woman's Safety and Resource Center; Freeman Marine Equipment; Sause Brothers, Inc, SOMAR; American Bridge Manufacturing; South Coast Educational Service District; 10 Regional High Schools; and the Transitional Education and Title II Program at Southwestern Oregon Community College.

Grant Amount: \$1,998,518

Location of Grant Activities: Southwest Oregon

Challenge: The Metals and Transportation Equipment and Parts clusters are the top high growth clusters for the region, but their share of employment is smaller in the region than elsewhere in Oregon. Businesses in the clusters have extreme difficulty finding younger, qualified workers to replace workers as they retire. Twenty percent of manufacturing workers in this region are 55 or older. Those workers described as "highly skilled" have an average age of 58. These demographic trends indicate there will be an extreme shortage of skilled manufacturing workers within the next five to ten years.

Addressing the Challenge: SOCC will design and purchase a mobile training lab, develop a curriculum, provide short-term training development, and increase capacities in its current academic programs in order to train more skilled manufacturing workers. An additional welding instructor and a training coordinator/mobile lab instructor will staff the facilities. The SOCC Associates Degree in Welding and Fabrication program will earn the American Welding Society Certification, while SOCC will advance its metals instructor certification through a curriculum review. The current instructor, a Certified Welding Inspector, will become a Certified Welding Educator.

Projected Outcomes:

- 100 prospective welding/metals fabrication students and 250 prospective short term training participants will be targeted to receive outreach materials.
- 50 applicants will complete assessment/placement testing.
- Welding Certificate enrollment and Welding/Metals Fabrication Degree enrollment will each be expanded by a total of 35 students.
- 450 students will enroll in industry-targeted short-term workforce trainings with a 75% completion rate.
- 75% of certificate and AAS graduates will enter job-related employment.

