

Community-Based Job Training Grants

South Texas College

Grantee: South Texas College, a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Industry Focus: Information Technology

Key Partners: Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement, WorkFORCE Solutions, South Texas College (STC), Mission School District, Pharr,-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District, Edcouch-Elsa School District, Nikki Rowe School District, and LaJoya School District

Grant Amount: \$708,476

Leveraged Amount: \$775,000

Location of Grant Activities: Texas

Challenge: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts the Computer and Information Technology (CIT)-related vacancies will increase by 58 percent in Hidalgo and Starr Counties by 2015. Computer Support Specialist positions that require two-year degrees will increase by 50 percent in Hidalgo County and 55 percent in Starr County by 2015, compared to a 35 percent rise statewide and 34 percent increase nationwide during the same period. CIT-related occupations requiring four-year degrees, such as Computer and Information Systems Managers, will rise 62 percent in Hidalgo and 60 percent in Starr Counties by 2015.

Addressing the Challenge: South Texas College (STC) proposes to address the shortage of CIT professionals in Hidalgo and Starr counties by establishing strategic partnerships with key members of the region's business community. The College and its partners will engage in capacity building activities to develop and tailor CIT training curricula and competency models that are specific to the workforce needs of the region.

The four challenges identified by the key partners include: 1) providing academic and supportive services to an historically underserved student population; 2) increasing the knowledge base of adults and out-of school students to become college and/or workforce ready; 3) developing professional development training curricula to build capacity in regional businesses and learning institutions; and 4) tailoring training curricula and competency models to meet specific demands.

Projected Outcomes:

- The program will serve 1,225 participants
- Creation of a network of academic and personal support services to STC and Dual Enrollment Students
- Provision of tuition assistance for adult and out-of school youth to attend industry-recognized courses at STC
- Tuition cost assistance for CIT and professional development training
- Revision of training curricula and competency models based on qualitative/quantitative research and the input of the strategic taskforce

