

# President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

## Midland College

**AWARD AMOUNT:** \$617,291

**AREA SERVED:** Midland, Pecos, Reagan, Crockett and Upton counties, Texas

**INDUSTRY:** Healthcare

**KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES:** \$463,640 in leveraged resources from four employer partners, a workforce partner and two education partners

**CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS:** According to the Permian Basin Workforce Development Board, Texas is short 40,000 Registered Nurses (RNs) statewide. The critical need for RNs and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) in the rural area to be served is evidenced by the ratios of RNs and LVNs to county residents, which are high at 1:420 and 1:467 respectively, compared to the state average of 1:148 and 1:360. Despite the increasing demand for nurses, Midland College has denied 207 qualified applicants admission to the RN program and 139 qualified applicants to the LVN program over the past three years due to capacity constraints. Distance learning courses are limited due to constraints of the college's current computer system, lack of organizational capacity to coordinate and implement such programs and lack of technological support.

**ACTIVITIES:** The project will expand the college's distance learning programs at two campuses. A Distance Nurse Education Coordinator will be hired to coordinate the programs and provide staff support. The use of distance technology will expand the use of the current faculty by allowing more students to participate in instructional portions of the program. Through the use of distance videoconferencing, faculty will reach multiple rural classrooms and sites simultaneously. By establishing the technological infrastructure for distance learning classrooms, the college's long-term ability to train RNs will be enhanced. The project will train 55 students and will target the Hispanic community, which it serves. Training is to begin in January 2006.

### PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- Two interactive distance learning classrooms will be established;
- The college's computer network will be upgraded to allow connectivity to the end users sites and to educational resources outside of the service area;
- The internal videoconferencing network will be upgraded to the network standard protocol;
- 55 RNs will be trained with 100% passing the NCLEX-RN to become a RN and entering employment as RNs; and
- LVNs completing the Associate Degree in Nursing to RN program will have a six months earning increase of \$11.49/hour.

