

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Lee College

Grantee: Lee College

Industry Focus: Energy

Key Partners: Gulf Coast Petrochemical Information Network; San Jacinto Community College; Brazosport College; College of the Mainland; the East Harris County Manufacturers Association; WorkSource; Dayton High-School; Boys and Girls Club of Brazoria County; Liberty County Workforce Academy; University of Houston; Barbers Hill School District; Goose Creek School District; Brazosport School District; Bayer Material Science; ExxonMobil; DOW Chemical Company; Economic Alliance for Brazoria County; Association of Plant Inspection Professionals; Economic Alliance Port of Houston; Baytown Police Department; Love in the Name of Christ, Inc; Houston A+ Challenge; Baytown Resource & Assistance Center; and Workforce Solutions.

Grant Amount: \$2,280,246

Leveraged Amount: \$626,800

Location of Grant Activities: Texas Gulf Coast Region

Challenge: The five Gulf Coast counties (Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Liberty, and Harris) contain the highest concentration of petrochemical industry and support companies in Texas, employing nearly 200,000 workers. Petroleum and chemical manufacturing industries are being transformed by technology and innovation, requiring new skill sets for workers. In general, there is a critical shortage of qualified workers due to industry expansion, product demand, changing technologies, and workforce retirement trends. In addition, local colleges are facing capacity challenges including the high cost of technology, software, and equipment; lack of quality, hands-on curriculum for the high-skill crafts that can be delivered in alternative formats; and a lack of sufficient space for new programs.

Addressing the Challenge: The Gulf Coast Energy Job Training Program will address industry workforce shortages and capacity constraints within the local community colleges. The program will increase regional capacity for producing job candidates possessing appropriate associate degrees, certificates, and continuing education credits. A certification-based training program for entry-level workers will be created and/or expanded. Incumbent worker training will be expanded to meet business-defined, operations-critical workforce skill gaps. The program will also provide for expansion of an intensive, career orientation summer program targeting 8-11th graders with an interest in the petrochemical industry.

Projected Outcomes:

- 1,400 participants will enroll in the training programs.
- 1,300 participants will complete the training.
- 1,200 participants will enter training related employment and 90% will be retained.

