

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

South Texas Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship

Grant amount: \$2,000,000

Grantee: Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Development Board

Key Partners: South Texas Community College (STCC), South Texas Manufacturing Association (STMA), Brownsville Area Manufacturers Association, Harlingen Manufacturers Association, McAllen Economic Development Corporation, Texas State Technical College, Texas Southmost College, McAllen Independent School District, Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement, and the Cameron Workforce Development Board.

Leveraged amount: \$2,000,000 from regional business partners

Grant Activities will take place in the South Texas region

Challenge:

Manufacturers in the South Texas region have reported that skilled labor is in very short supply. In particular, some employers have been forced to hire foreign or out-of-area maintenance technicians for their production facilities. Local manufacturers have cautioned that without adequate local training programs, they will not be able to expand and could be forced to relocate.

Addressing the Challenge:

In response to the workforce needs of the local manufacturing industry, the Lower Rio Grande WIB, STCC, and the STMA formed a partnership to develop a curriculum and a five-year Apprenticeship Strategic Plan with multiple programs for tool and die, industrial maintenance, and plastic process technicians. The partnership will attain credentialing from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills for apprenticeship trainers. It will also develop program study guides and curriculum for Industrial Maintenance, Tool and Die and the Youth Apprenticeship Career Pathway.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 200 students through the Skill Enhancement, Pre-Apprenticeship and Post Secondary Dual Credit Programs;
- Train 75 students in the first year and 150 students in the second year in advanced manufacturing trades;
- Train 213 apprentices over two years; and
- Attain Journeyman Certification for 20 apprentices by May 31, 2006.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Advanced Manufacturing Industry Demonstration Grants
Announced on December 2, 2004*