

# President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

## *The Junior College District of Kansas City*

**AWARD AMOUNT:** \$1,970,252

**AREA SERVED:** Kansas City, Missouri

**INDUSTRY:** Advanced Manufacturing

**KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES:** \$1,281,818 in leveraged resources from thirteen employer partners, a workforce partner, ten education partners and one other partner

**CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS:** Transportation equipment manufacturing has grown 24 percent in Kansas City. Many local employers report plans to hire new workers in the next two years; however, there is a shortage of qualified entry-level workers, and companies report difficulties retaining those they do hire. With state resources focused on high-skills training, the college has been unable to fully develop a comprehensive program to address the critical need to prepare entry-level workers for this industry. Currently, there is gap in capacity of the Business and Technology College (BTC) to extend the pipeline of preparation to link unskilled workers to first-step jobs and to connect high school students to manufacturing careers.

**ACTIVITIES:** This project, called *Making it in KC*, will address the regional shortage of qualified entry-level workers by building BTC's capacity to expand and deliver a modular curriculum focused on properties of manufacturing materials, "lean" or efficient manufacturing processes and systems, industrial blueprints and schematics, and computer literacy. As a result, trainees will receive an industry-recognized, standards-based credential. Job placement and retention for completers is built into the program with easy accessibility to job fairs and the One-Stop system support services made available to completers. Other activities include job placement follow-up, high school awareness and recruitment strategies and secondary teacher professional development workshops.

### **PROJECTED OUTCOMES:**

- The number of high school or GED graduates enrolling in BTC manufacturing certificate and degree programs will increase annually by 20%;
- The number of One-Stops customers and Job Corps students enrolled in BTC programs will increase 100%, from 48 in 2004-05 to 96 in 2008-09;
- 90 high school students will enroll in the Center for Excellence-Manufacturing;
- 75 high school teachers will participate in a lean manufacturing workshop;
- 14 high schools will implement one or more Project Lead the Way courses;
- Marketing materials will be developed to support all facets of the initiative; and
- 225 of the 300 admitted participants will complete training and be placed in entry-level manufacturing jobs.

