President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Texas State Technical College Harlingen

AWARD AMOUNT: $2,064,161

AREA SERVED: State of Texas

INDUSTRY: Advanced Manufacturing

KEY PARTNERS: More than three employer partners, six workforce partners, fifteen education partners and seven other partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: Existing industry is facing the retirement of "baby boomers" that have learned through on-the-job training or apprenticeship programs. High school students are graduating without the basic math skills necessary to enter a technical field like advanced manufacturing. New industry must contend with a workforce that is not trained or certified for advanced manufacturing employment unless they have graduated from an industrial/manufacturing program. The equipment needed to provide training is expensive and places capacity constraints on the community college partners' ability to develop training programs.

ACTIVITIES: Texas State Technical College **(**TSTC) Harlingen will create a continuum of education in advanced manufacturing technologies through the following activities: 1) Create a K-12 awareness program and pilot youth apprenticeship to train and certify high school students in advanced manufacturing technologies; 2) Establish a bridge from secondary education into community college programs leading to certifications and an Associate of Applied Science degree; 3) Connect university research in advanced manufacturing technologies with two-year postsecondary institutions and to industry; 4) Train incumbent and dislocated workers and provide nationally-recognized credentials; 5) Instill in trainees the quality philosophies and operating procedure used by the industry (e.g. ISO, Sigma Six); and 6) Utilize the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) national accreditation system to provide trainees with an industry-recognized credential.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- 40 high school students will participate in the youth apprenticeship project , which will include participation in a summer internship and credential testing resulting in NIMS machining certifications;
- 50 high school students will participate in the Machine Program Longview ISD and 10 will be tested for certification;
- 2,000 career ladder flow charts will be published as part of the youth outreach;
- 6 instructors will be tested and receive NIMS credentials in machining and plastics; and
- 350 new, incumbent and dislocated workers will be trained during the grant period;
- 18 students will intern at Baylor University's CASPER program; and
- 9 TSTC Workforce Training staff members will be trained in quality system training.