

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Darton College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$2,484,456

AREA SERVED: Rural Georgia

INDUSTRY: Healthcare

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$1,325,043 in leveraged resources from seven employer partners, a workforce partner and five education partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: Georgia is experiencing significant vacancies for full-time nursing-related positions in hospitals due to fewer young people entering the nursing profession and an increase in the number of nurses retiring within the next ten years. Darton College has an existing partnership to provide registered nurses (RNs); however the college has limited classroom space resulting in eligible students being turned away, non-competitive nursing faculty salaries and a growing need for other disciplinary faculty members.

ACTIVITIES: The project will develop an online Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN) program to allow rural students an opportunity to pursue long-term career jobs and advanced nursing degrees. This project will build on existing technology to expand classroom space in rural satellite areas, meeting the needs of students who are unable to participate in traditional classroom settings. Activities will include course development, preparation for program approval by state board and national accrediting agency and program implementation. The project will hire additional part-time and full-time faculty, building instructional capacity. An expanded faculty will support both certificate and degree options in allied health allowing students to seamlessly transition between healthcare majors and the workforce. The project will provide stipends to attract new faculty and to supplement experienced teachers' salaries. Additional computers will be purchased and divided among satellite campus locations enabling students and faculty easier access to completing assignments without traveling great distances. A new classroom and computer laboratory in Americus using donated space from the hospital will house more students and support other continuing education endeavors.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- 120 students will be trained under the grant;
- 20 students will be admitted to the online ADN program with a pass rate of 80%;
- Attrition for online program to be less than 25%;
- 100 students will be admitted into the traditional classroom based ADN program;
- Overall program pass rates will be more than 80% per year;
- Overall program attrition will be less than 25%;
- The number of yearly nursing graduates will improve by 10% per year; and
- 70% of graduates from the program will practice in Southwest Georgia upon graduation.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Community-Based Job Training Grants
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