President's High Growth Job Training Initiative
Colorado Workforce Innovation and Technology Demonstration

Grant amount: $1,600,000

Grantee: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Key partners: Kaiser Permanente, Centura Health, Touch of Life Technologies, Colorado State Workforce Development Council, Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting System, Colorado Community College System, Colorado Department of Education, and the Colorado Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System

Leveraged amount: $1,234,808

Location of Grant Activities: The State of Colorado

Challenge: The growing shortage of healthcare workers calls for state and regional coordination of solutions to build capacity to provide high quality training. States need new solutions that will increase the number of workers to fill critical shortage occupations, improve the quality of those workers, and reduce the time required to prepare such workers.

Addressing the Challenge: The Colorado Department of Labor will expand the state's capacity to provide high quality training to nurses through the development of the Work Education and Lifelong Learning Simulation Center (WELLS). The WELLS Center will apply innovative technologies and teaching modalities for use by training institutions and healthcare practitioners throughout Colorado. The Center will offer skill development, re-entry and/or remediation training, career development and specialty preparation, on-going competency validation, and educator development and support. Under this grant, Colorado will equip the WELLS Center; develop learning scenarios for high-needs groups using integrated learning technologies; create a Healthcare Educators Institute to expand the number of clinical scholars, clinical instructors, classroom instructors/ lecturers, and preceptors; and create a simulation development group to expand the knowledge and use of technology by nursing educators and educational institutions.

Projected Outcomes:
1. The WELLS Center will expand Colorado's capacity to produce a highly skilled nursing workforce for the state.
2. A web-based pre-admission assessment predictor tool will be developed and piloted by 10 community colleges for students applying to ADN nursing programs;
3. 250 enrolled nursing students will receive access to on-line nursing education resources that provide assessments tools, diagnostic tests, and tutorials to support their student academic readiness and success.
4. 50 clinical scholars and preceptors will be trained in the use of simulation technology to enhance skill-based competencies.
5. 80 educators and clinical staff will receive on-line coaching and skill building workshops to support the use of various technologies.