
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative
*Rural Healthcare Job Training and Economic
Recovery Program in the Columbia River Gorge*



Grant amount: \$1,250,000

Grantee: Columbia Gorge Community College

Leveraged Amount: \$870,982 in-kind from four local hospitals, four long-term care facilities, foundations, and Columbia Gorge Community College

Key Partners: Columbia Basin Nursing Home; La Clinica; Klickitat Valley Hospital - Goldendale; Mid-Columbia Medical Center; Providence-Hood River Memorial Hospital; Skyline Hospital; Hood River Care Center; Flagstone Retirement \$ Assisted Living; Oregon Veterans' Home; Region 9 Workforce Investment Board and its One-Stop Career Centers; K-12 school districts; Oregon Health and Science University; and city and county governments

Location of Grant Activities: Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties, OR; Klickitat and Skamania Counties, WA

Challenge: Economic downturns have left high numbers of displaced workers requiring education and retraining to transition into health care positions. Without programs, the health care industry will not be able to draw from this non-traditional labor pool to fill vacancies.

Addressing the Challenge: With its \$1,250,000 grant, Columbia Gorge Community College and its partners will create a Health Occupations Career Ladder Nursing Program to train 200 new workers. CGCC will expand its health occupation educational programs and career ladder entry points leading to completion of an Associate Degree in Nursing. In addition, CGCC will provide a pathway to completion of a Bachelor's Degree of Nursing through agreements with Oregon Health Sciences University and other Bachelor's Degree granting institutions.

Projected Outcomes:

- 200 trainees will enter the Career Ladder;
- 85 percent will pass licensing exams;
- 85 percent will achieve employment at their target career level within the grant period;
- 90 percent of incumbent worker participants will receive pay raises as a result of their additional credentials; and
- 40 nurses of 200 total trainees will have the opportunity to earn a BSN through dual admission agreement with Oregon Health and Science University.

