President's Community-Based Job Training Grants
Middlesex Community College

AWARD AMOUNT: $853,736

AREA SERVED: Suffolk and Middlesex Counties, Massachusetts

INDUSTRY: Information Technology

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: $291,317 in leveraged resources from six employer partners, three workforce partners, six education partners and four other partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: Radio frequency identification (RFID) is an emerging technology industry with considerable investment by major corporations in the greater-Boston area, yet technician training in this field is not offered by any of the area's community colleges or four-year universities. Middlesex Community College (MCC) does not have the resources to develop faculty training opportunities, develop curriculum or equip RFID laboratory facilities to meet the industry's needs.

ACTIVITIES: The project has three primary goals: 1) To develop the capacity to offer RFID technical training programs, 2) To provide industry with capacity to install and maintain systems with trained staff and 3) to provide professional development activities to faculty to increase capacity to provide RFID-related instruction. The project will develop curriculum to provide the skills required of an RFID technician and establish a RFID laboratory and warehouse simulation site to conduct large scale RFID installation and testing. The program will implement an Associate in Science Degree in computer software and networking technology, a RFID technology certificate, and specialized training in collaboration with industry partners for incumbent workers. Faculty will attend an annual conference and seminars for professional development. Industry personnel will attend at least one class per course each semester to provide guidance and formative assessment of the program. Recruitment and job placement activities will take place at regional high schools, companies, One-Stop Career Centers and community organizations.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- The program will develop and implement a certificate in RFID technology, Associate in Science Degree in computer software and networking with an RFID concentration;
- Workplace RFID training programs will be developed and implemented;
- MCC will establish an RFID laboratory;
- There will be increased faculty development in curriculum design and pedagogy;
- 80% of the participants entering the program without employment will enter employment within three months of completing the program;
- 80% of the participants employed in the first quarter will be retained by employers through the second and third quarters after hire;
- 75% of the employed participants will experience an earnings gain; and
- Of the 80% completing the certificate in RFID, 40% will earn additional certification.