

# President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Montana State University Billings College of Technology

**AWARD AMOUNT:** \$1,980,042

**AREA SERVED:** State of Montana

**INDUSTRY:** Construction

**KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES:** \$129,000 in leveraged resources from more than fifteen employer partners, five workforce partners, eight education partners and ten other partners

**CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS:** The building trades industry is one of Montana's high growth industries, but the state is not well placed to seize the economic opportunities this sector offers because its two-year colleges are not prepared to train the workforce that the industry desperately needs. Existing construction training is not coordinated among the two-year institutions in the state, and there are no statewide, coordinated secondary-postsecondary career pathways in this high growth sector or programs to increase student awareness.

**ACTIVITIES:** Plans to address this need include developing an industry-driven model for just-in-time, short-term, focused training programs in the building industry to meet immediate needs and the development of three levels of programs: basic certificates and advanced certificates in multiple areas of the building trades, and Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in construction trades degree at each site. Career-readiness and awareness programs beginning at the middle school level, and dual-credit programs at the high school level, will help keep enrollment in these programs robust.

## **PROJECTED OUTCOMES:**

- Statewide A.A.S. curriculum and a range of basic and advanced certificates will be developed in compliance with National Center for Construction Education and Research accreditation standards;
- Career awareness/educational pathways for secondary students will be developed;
- A statewide website will be developed with links to each of the four partner institutions and will include MP3 audio files of interviews and marketing pieces for download to PCs or for Podcasting; and
- 1,822 individuals will be trained over the life of the grant: 397 in the A.A.S. in construction trades program, 855 in short-term workforce training programs, 470 in basic certification programs and 100 in advanced certification programs.

