

# President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Walters State Community College

**AWARD AMOUNT:** \$1,939,796

**AREA SERVED:** 10-county area in Eastern Tennessee

**INDUSTRY:** Automotive and Advanced Manufacturing

**KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES:** \$1,379,746 in leveraged resources from three employer partners, a workforce partner and two education partners

**CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS:** The furniture and textile manufacturing industry in eastern Tennessee is in decline, and the growing automotive parts and advanced manufacturing industries offer workers opportunities to transition into new jobs. Yet, many workers lack the skills needed to enter the jobs available in these new industries and require additional training. Already, neighboring training programs have waiting lists of up to 12 months for critical foundation skills courses. Walters State is limited in its ability to provide training by outdated curricula and limited access to the sophisticated training equipment used in a continually evolving manufacturing environment.

**ACTIVITIES:** To meet local demand for high-tech training, Walters State will design industry-driven, easily accessible training at the Center for Workforce Education and will:

- 1) Change the method of delivering targeted training to include extended operating hours, self-paced learning modules and video-enhanced delivery;
- 2) Acquire training equipment used by local industries;
- 3) Establish outcome tracking and measuring processes;
- 4) Use two consultants on manufacturing facility design and modular curricula; and
- 5) Reassign some current staff and hire additional staff.

Two credentials will be offered through the Center for Workforce Education: technical certificates in workforce preparedness and industrial maintenance and Associate degrees in industrial technology.

## **PROJECTED OUTCOMES:**

- The Center will serve 400 jobseekers and train 200 students;
- High school students will take center-sponsored courses at their schools and will be equipped to enter the workforce or continue their studies at the college level;
- Job applicants and employed workers will receive basic, remedial, and technical training leading to a certificate or degree; and
- Significant reductions of 50% or more are expected in the failure rates on pre-employment tests.

