

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Palm Beach Community College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,561,713

AREA SERVED: Palm Beach County

INDUSTRY: Construction

LEVERAGED RESOURCES AND KEY PARTNERS: \$193,740 in leveraged resources from four employer partners, one workforce partner, two education partners, and two other partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: Beginning in 2006, the Belle Glade region of Palm Beach County will experience a growth spurt in the construction industry because of the implementation of the South Florida Water Management's Acceler8 program. This program reports a need for 2,051 construction-related Tier 1 jobs to be filled in the next five years. This area of Palm Beach is characterized by high unemployment, underemployment, dislocation of agricultural workers and low per-capita income. The Belle Glade campus does not currently have a construction trades training program, and thus requires facilities, equipment and faculty to meet local demand for training.

ACTIVITIES: Palm Beach Community College (PBCC) will create a "Glades Area Construction Institute" at its Belle Glade and Lake Worth campuses that will advance eligible participants through: 1) A dual enrollment program for students in School District of Palm Beach County construction and agri-science academies; 2) A pre-construction program to address basic job skills; 3) Post-secondary adult vocation programs in residential and/or commercial construction, diesel mechanics and welding; 4) College credit certificates in building and construction, architectural drafting, surveying and mapping; and 5) An AS/AAS Degree program in industrial management. Recruitment efforts will target dislocated workers and new entrants to the workforce. PBCC will address capacity-building issues by renovating instructional space and supplying computers, software, simulation, distance learning and other required equipment for Construction Institute classrooms and laboratory facilities. Faculty positions will be created to instruct classes and develop and/or adapt core curriculum and competency models for training.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- Establish a construction career ladder based on course curriculum for Post Secondary Adult Vocational (PSAV) certificate and College Credit Certificates (CCC) programs, culminating in an AS/ AAS degree as guided by industry;
- Create a Glades Area Construction Institute with capacity to train 100 students annually;
- Develop a new data system to monitor training participants throughout the college;
- 460 individuals will benefit from training over the grant period;
- The project targets completion rates of 80% for enrollees in its post-secondary adult vocational training, college credit certificate training and AS/ AAS programs; and
- 75 program completers annually will fill local construction industry vacancies.

