

## Community-Based Job Training Grants

Lamar State College

**Grantee:** Lamar State College--Orange

**Industry Focus:** Construction (Maritime)

**Key Partners:** The Texas Workforce Center; Signal International; Beacon-Maritime; Tubal-Cain; Orange Shipbuilding Company; B and E Resources; the local high schools of Little Cypress-Mauriceville and West Orange-Stark, and the Vidor Independent School District; Orange County Economic Development Corporation, the Navigation and Port District of Orange County; and Greater Orange Area Literacy Services (GOALS)

**Grant Amount:** \$1,526,700

**Leveraged Amount:** \$465,500

**Location of Grant Activities:** Texas

**Challenge:** Welders are needed to repair, overhaul, fabricate, modernize and create new construction of semi-submersibles, jack-ups and vessels for the offshore drilling and marine industry in Orange County, Texas. Since Hurricane Rita devastated the Southeast Texas region, skilled welders have been extremely hard to find for a large number of new jobs created by the marine construction industry located along the waters of Orange County.

**Addressing the Challenge:** Lamar State College will provide students with a unique combination of intensive classroom training followed by a full-time paid internship with one of the employer partners. The employers will provide skills testing and after two weeks of on-the-job training, students will return to the classroom part-time for advanced training. Capacity for future training will be built by increasing the number of trainees in year two and three of the grant period and by creating a college credit program resulting in a certificate or an associate's degree. The use of the Greater Orange Area Literacy Council to target the Spanish-speaking community will significantly impact the recruiting results.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- Train 450 participants
- 100% of participants to be employed in the industry within 90 days of program completion
- Purchase of equipment to provide welding booths for up to 20 students per class as well as welding supplies such as the required gases, welding rods, and other consumables not donated by industry partners

