

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Enterprise-Ozark Community College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,636,688

AREA SERVED: Mobile and 10 south Alabama counties

INDUSTRY: Aerospace

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$8,661,713 in leveraged resources from nineteen employer partners, four workforce partners, thirteen education partners and five other partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations projects a 35 percent increase in the number of jobs for aircraft mechanics and service technicians by 2012. Employer partners report an inability to secure qualified workers to fill job vacancies. As a result, 3,320 jobs go unfilled annually. With over 51 percent of the current workforce age 45 and older, industry demand for skilled labor is anticipated to rise dramatically as workers reach retirement age. The following five obstacles hinder Enterprise-Ozark Community College's ability to respond effectively to the industry's workforce needs: 1) Limited space restricts class size; 2) Lack of state-of-the-art training equipment needed to expand offerings; 3) Secondary students and the general public lack career awareness of opportunities in the aviation industry; 4) Shortage of individuals qualified to fill faculty positions; and 5) Scarce resources for live distance delivery of avionics courses and in the growing field of simulation technology.

ACTIVITIES: The project will meet the dramatically increasing demand for skilled technicians by providing licensed FAA training. This training will use an intensive delivery model and 3-D distance learning technology to deliver avionics and flight simulator technician training. Capacity-building activities include: develop a replicable flight simulator technician curriculum; refurbish and maintain airframe, power plant and avionics systems of aircraft; and install, repair and maintain flight simulators used in training military pilots.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- Increase the space and state-of-the-art equipment available for training aircraft maintenance, avionics and flight simulator technicians by the end of the first year of the project;
- Increase the number of students enrolled in aircraft maintenance, avionics and flight simulator programs to 796 by the end of the third year of the project;
- Increase the number of professional development opportunities for full-time and adjunct faculty;
- Increase the capacity to deliver courses at multiple instruction sites by the end of year two;
- 33% increase in the number of students passing the FAA airframe and power plant certifications; and
- 33% increase in the number of students completing aviation programs.

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EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Community-Based Job Training Grants
Announced October 19, 2005*