

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Southwest Tennessee Community College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,829,320

AREA SERVED: Shelby and Fayette Counties, Tennessee

INDUSTRY: Biotechnology

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$2,550,000 in leveraged resources from an employer partner, a workforce partner and two education partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: The bioscience industry in Memphis is anticipating a shortfall of at least 722 laboratory technicians and lab assistants by 2007. Southwest Tennessee Community College's bioscience certificate program is faced with several capacity barriers preventing it from the meeting industry's workforce needs: 1) Secondary students lack awareness of careers in the bioscience industry; 2) Secondary students lack strong academic preparedness, especially in math and sciences; 3) Financial aid resources are limited, especially funding for dual enrollment college tuition and fees for low-income secondary students; 4) The college lacks adequate classroom and laboratory space; and 5) The Biotech Technician program needs additional faculty and staff to operate at full capacity.

ACTIVITIES: The project will: 1) Create a Bioscience Career Ladder point-of-contact; 2) Develop bioscience career ladder activities, including annual summer institutes and one-week internships; 3) Provide dual enrollment scholarships and academic enrichment services as a component of the Summer Institutes and dual enrollment programs; 4) Lease classroom and laboratory space within the new bioscience research park; 5) Expand the biotechnology faculty and staff; and 6) Procure biotech technician instructional supplies.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- 225 high school students will attend Summer Institutes;
- 150 high school students will be dual-enrolled in Biotech Technician or Engineering Technologies (ENTC) courses;
- 5 workers will enroll in ongoing postsecondary certification training in Biotech Technician or ENTC training programs, and will have tuition paid by their employer;
- 60 additional individuals will enroll in the Biotech Technician program;
- 75% of trainees will obtain employment within three months of exit from a certificate or Associate-level program;
- 70% of those employed will retain employment for the second and third quarters after exit from a certificate or Associate-level program; and
- 70% of those employed will have an earnings gain between the first and third quarter after exit from a certificate or Associate-level program.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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