

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Northwest-Shoals Community College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,656,636

AREA SERVED: Northwest Alabama, Southern Middle Tennessee, Northwest Mississippi

INDUSTRY: Advanced Manufacturing

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$954,745 in leveraged resources from fourteen employer partners, one workforce partner and six education partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: The advanced manufacturing industry has career opportunities of which the public is unaware, contributing to lack of enrollments, lack of skilled faculty and inadequate facilities to meet rising demand. The college lacks the resources to equip a state-of-the-art welding lab, provide skilled faculty, and offer program options leading to certificates and associate degrees.

ACTIVITIES: Northwest-Shoals Community College will establish an Advanced Welding Technology Program. The program will expand the college's capacity to train additional workers in its welding program by upgrading and expanding classroom and laboratory facilities, adding faculty resources, adding a mobile welding program with certificate and associate degree options and adapting curriculum and delivery methods to match current and future workforce needs. It will also develop a career ladder program to recruit high school students and enroll 180 youth in career advising, workshops, and internships.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- Adapt curriculum and delivery options based on industry input;
- Implement a Career Ladder program to provide for career entry and advancement;
- Assess program and student outcomes;
- Disseminate information about the program, solutions, and outcomes statewide and nationally;
- Train 220 additional workers in the welding program;
- Add a mobile welding program to serve 75 workers;
- Enroll 180 youth in career advising, workshops, and internships;
- Increase the number of welders employed in the local economy by 25%; and
- Increase the number of high school students admitted to manufacturing programs by 75.

