

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

NorthWest Arkansas Community College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,895,564

AREA SERVED: Benton, Washington, Madison, and Carol Counties, Arkansas

INDUSTRY: Healthcare

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$2,285,020 in leveraged resources from four employer partners, two workforce partners and five education partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: The national shortfall of RNs is projected to reach 29 percent by 2020, but in Arkansas, the crisis is more severe with more than 500 nursing vacancies expected by 2012. In addition, Hispanic, Spanish-speaking nurses are under-represented with the shortfall projected to grow to 84 percent by 2025. The college lacks funding to expand their nursing programs to meet the rising demand for RNs.

ACTIVITIES: This project will build the college's capacity to graduate more RNs, improve the productivity of the current nursing population, and increase the number of bilingual healthcare professionals in Benton and Washington Counties. The college will implement Bienestar's Nursing Apprenticeship Program (NAP) to create opportunities for 30 high school students to complete relevant pre-college coursework and obtain field experience to jump-start college-level nursing training. A Patient Care Assistant (PCA+) instructional program targeting 160 Hispanic and other adults will be developed using Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) curriculum along with computer application training and workplace success skills. Nursing courses will be taught two evenings and one weekend day for 50 individuals who have daytime obligations but want to complete an RN degree in two years.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- 95% of core curriculum designed and developed by August 2006 for pilot testing of the programs;
- NAP, PCA+ and Access Nursing Program (ANP) will be ready for expansion by August 2007 with the second year of ANP ready to expand by August 2008;
- 90 students will enroll in NAP by August 2007;
- 48 students graduated from NAP by May 2008 and every May thereafter with at least 29 indicating intent to enroll into a nursing program within one year of graduation;
- 60 students will enroll in PCA+ by August 2006 – May 2007 (10 high school, 30 bilingual);
- 50 students graduated from PCA+ each year beginning in 2008 with at least 14 enrolled in a nursing program within two years of graduation;
- 20 students will enroll in ANP by August 2006 (10 will be bilingual);
- Second class of 30 students, at least half of whom are bilingual, will enroll in ANP program by 2007 and complete first year with at least 27 (90%) advancing;
- 30 more students will enroll in ANP program by August 2008; and
- 64 ANP students will graduate with at least 90% passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) on the first attempt.