

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Arizona Western College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,996,654

AREA SERVED: Yuma and LaPaz Counties, Arizona

INDUSTRY: Construction

KEY PARTNERS: One employer partner, two workforce partners and two education partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: The greater Yuma area is experiencing a population explosion with a shortage of construction workers. Typically the area's local economy relied on tourism and agriculture. However, within the last few years the city has been cited as one of the top five, fastest-growing cities in the United States. Residential building construction is the second fastest-growing industry next to the RV industry. Arizona Western College (AWC) does not have the capacity to develop career paths that match or keep pace with current, ever-changing local industry needs. Without a comprehensive construction trades program at the college, high school graduates are without an education ladder or lattice into construction careers.

ACTIVITIES: Arizona Western College will leverage U.S. Department of Labor and local industry/employer resources to develop a new Associate of Applied Science Degree Program in Construction Trades, an industry-recognized Certificate Program in cooperation with local industry representatives to address immediate industry needs for workforce training. In support of a K-12 continuum, this newly developed comprehensive Construction Trades Program will facilitate a seamless transition for youths from high school into a certificate and/or A. A. S. degree track. In order to accomplish these goals the college will: 1) Develop curriculum and support services and establish core competencies for the Construction Trades Certificate/Degree Program; 2) Lease, build out and equip facility for construction trades training; and 3) Identify and recruit potential participants. The industry and partners will continually advise the institution on the needs for skilled workers in the various areas of the construction trades as members of a Construction Trades Advisory Committee. To address the challenges of training individuals with limited English proficiency, a Student Support Team will identify resources for supplemental academic support, develop referral systems for soft skills training, and identify and/or design tutorials for building trade-specific vocabulary for LEP participants.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- Establish the program as a key partner in the economic development of the area;
- Students will complete the appropriate AWC written exam in their area of study;
- 80% will complete the AWC certification requirements in their field of study; and
- 20% will complete A. A. S. in their field of study.

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EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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