

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Midlands Technical College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,946,563

AREA SERVED: Fairfield, Lexington and Richland Counties, South Carolina

INDUSTRY: Healthcare

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$716,900 in leveraged resources from six employer partners, a workforce partner, two education partners and five other partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: The Central Midlands' largest economic cluster is health services. The sector employs more than 33,000 individuals, and is adding jobs at an eight percent annual growth rate. However, employers in the region struggle to recruit skilled workers to meet the demand. Employers find that potential applicants lack basic skills to successfully apply for jobs available in health services, because South Carolina consistently has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, and the region has a 45 percent rate of high school non-completion. Often those students enrolled in the health sciences programs require remediation. If assessment and intervention could be instituted and formalized, the attrition rate could be reduced and students could persist to completion of a health sciences program leading to employment. Midlands Technical College's (MTC) current counseling staff cannot provide the services corresponding to the volume of students needing to be served.

ACTIVITIES: Under this grant, MTC will expand its capacity to produce employment-ready graduates for the healthcare industry by: 1) Providing clinical experiences, intensive counseling, tutoring and participant tracking to all incoming and self-identified pre-health and pre-nursing students; 2) Providing a progressive career track to entry-level health services students that requires increasing skill levels corresponding with incremental credential upgrading; 3) Hiring additional counseling staff; and 4) Preparing students to successfully earn certifications and pass credentialing exams.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- Two career ladders for potential trainees will be created;
- 429 individuals will participate in training and will be assessed using ACT WorkKeys, and receive remediation services, if necessary; and
- The attrition rate will decrease in the Certified Nursing Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, Medical Business and Patient Care Technician programs as a result of the assessment and remediation, leading to more healthcare workers entering employment.

