

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

The Victoria County Junior College District

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,980,011

AREA SERVED: Victoria, DeWitte, Calhoun, Jackson, Lavaca, Refugio, Gonzales and Goliad Counties, Texas

INDUSTRY: Healthcare

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$475,500 in leveraged resources from seven employer partners, a workforce partner, two education partners and one other partner

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: Although the average Registered Nurse (RN) vacancy rate in Texas hospitals has reached a crisis point, 6,000 qualified applicants were turned away from Texas nursing schools because of insufficient faculty levels. Victoria College is at capacity and needs additional faculty and clinical training space to meet local demand for RNs. Additionally, an expansion of student support programs is needed to increase the quality of its training and career guidance.

ACTIVITIES: Project activities will include 1) Development of a Nursing Student Support Center to assist students in meeting admission requirements, successfully completing the program, and continuing their nursing education for additional degrees or certificates; 2) Specific recruitment activities targeting Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) for the special one-year LVN to Associate Degree (ADN) track; 3) Provision of a stipend for LVNs enrolled in the ADN Program who agree to work 20 hours or less per week while in training; 4) Recruitment of two additional ADN faculty members; and 5) Procurement of high-tech simulation mannequins that will free up clinical spaces for more advanced nursing care experiences. Separately, the University of Houston-Victoria will implement a RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The Victoria Independent School District (VISD) will participate in career awareness activities. And, beginning this fall, a new VISD magnet high school will be physically located on the College campus.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- A Nursing Student Support Center will be developed;
- The number of qualified applicants to the LVN to ADN program will increase by 20 annually;
- The number of LVN to ADN program graduates will increase by 15 each year, resulting in 60 additional graduates over the life of the grant period;
- Enrollment in the ADN program will increase by at least 20 students annually; and
- The number of ADN graduates per year will increase, with 100 students graduating during the grant period.

