

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Southern University at Shreveport

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,992,240

AREA SERVED: Caddo Parish, Louisiana

INDUSTRY: Healthcare

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$927,510 in leveraged resources from three employer partners, one workforce partner, two education partners and three other partners.

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: This project will address the critical shortage of healthcare-related professionals in Louisiana with a focus on Caddo Parish. The college will address the following capacity constraints: (1) recruitment of qualified faculty; (2) expansion of clinical experience sites by purchasing equipment to enhance hands-on learning experiences; and (3) enhancement of adult education.

ACTIVITIES: This project will facilitate training efforts in the high-growth, high-demand occupations of dental hygiene, medical laboratory technician/phlebotomy, nursing, radiologic technology, and respiratory therapy. Upon completion of training, participants will receive an associate's degree, a nationally recognized credential or licensure, and a Louisiana WorkReady! Certificate. An Adult Basic Education program will also be developed. Capacity-building activities include hiring quality credentialed faculty, purchase of equipment for workplace simulation labs and technology in the classroom, and identification of an adequate facility to house the education programs.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- A workplace literacy component will be integrated into the curriculum for trainees and pre-GED participants to address soft skills needs through the use of WorkKeys and Plato software;
- The expanded Adult Basic Education program will serve 60 participants by the end of the grant;
- Equipment will be acquired to strengthen hands-on instruction, infrastructure, and effectiveness of existing programs;
- Five full-time instructional staff will be added to increase the number of clinical sites available for training as well as increase the number of students trained per year;
- 150 trainees who are WIA eligible, economically disadvantaged single parents, incumbent workers, or entry level workers will be trained; and
- An additional 20 individuals will receive pre-GED services.

