

Community-Based Job Training Grants

University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville

Grantee: University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville

Industry Focus: Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: North Central Arkansas Workforce Investment Board; Arkansas Department of Workforce Services; University of Arkansas Community College Batesville; Black River Technical College; National Park Community College; Rich Mountain Community College; Northwest Arkansas Community College; Southern Arkansas University Tech; Arkansas Northeastern College; Ouachita Technical College; Arkansas State University; Henderson State University; University of Arkansas Fort Smith; Aviation Repair Technologies; Broadwing Air Repair; Triumph Airborne Structures, Inc.; Sharp Aviation, Inc.; Amos Flying Service, Inc.; Precision Aerospace Technologies, Inc.; Francis M. Dix Company; Crider Aircraft Painting, Inc.; Brodix Cylinder Heads; Arkansas Department of Aeronautics; Batesville Regional Airport Community; John 3:16 Ministries; and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning.

Grant Amount: \$2,906,834

Leveraged Amount: \$1,556,400

Location of Grant Activities: Southwest, Northwest, North Central and Northeast Arkansas

Challenge: Aircraft and spacecraft are Arkansas's largest export industries and currently employ more than 10,000 workers. Continued growth and investment in the local aerospace industry will have major effects on the local economy and associated industries. Transformation and innovations in technology will require new skill sets for workers; however, employers are concerned about the availability of qualified applicants and adequate aviation training programs. Growth in the industry has also presented capacity constraints for consortium members. More instructors are needed to support aviation degree and certificate programs.

Addressing the Challenge: The Arkansas Association of Two Year Colleges (AATYC) and the Aviation Training Consortium (ATC) will focus on preparing future aviation maintenance professionals to work at any of the 91 Arkansas public use airports, with emphasis on underserved rural counties. The program will efficiently expand the capacity of consortium members to train workers for high growth/high demand aerospace industry careers. Their plan includes using on-line curricula and the joint acquisition of training equipment. Basic FAA standard equipment will be purchased to increase enrollment and to address industry needs. Funds will also be invested in a rotatable pool of training equipment that will be shared by consortium members.

Projected Outcomes:

- 900 participants enrolled annually with 300 in Aircraft Maintenance and 600 in Aircraft Specialty Programs.
- 750 high school and postsecondary students will participate in aviation training activities.
- 600 participants will complete the program.