President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

United Tribes Technical College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,463,996

AREA SERVED: American Indian Tribes, Bismarck, Region 8, North Dakota

INDUSTRY: Healthcare

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$555,500 in leveraged resources from five employer partners, three workforce partners, three education partners and four other partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: The demand for healthcare services, including support services such as medical transcription, outstrips the available resources within the American Indian population. In addition, the changing environment of electronic healthcare information requires specific skill sets. Rural isolation, poverty and lack of academic preparation hinder the training of skilled workers on American Indian reservations. As the only tribal college nationwide providing an accredited Health Information Management program, the college is understaffed and cannot provide the technology and software necessary to keep up with demand for trained transcribers.

ACTIVITIES: This capacity-building project will provide academically and economically disadvantaged individuals with the opportunity to receive training from industry certified staff on state-of-the-art medical transcription equipment and software used by industry. The program will: 1) Develop an approved medical transcription training program by merging the successful Exact-Med medical transcription training program with the college's health information technology program; 2) Develop and expand program delivery through links to software, data resources and web-based training; and 3) Recruit and retain students through career fairs, dual-credit courses, and counseling. The transcription certification program will be available to participants via both campus-based and online instructional delivery. Stipends will be provided to help participants with barriers to training for basic needs such as childcare and food. A laptop checkout program will facilitate telecommuting for individuals without computers.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- A nationally-accessible transcription virtual laboratory providing cutting edge technology will be established and made available to all American Health Information Management Association members;
- 210 students will enroll in the Medical Transcription program;
- 85% of enrolled students will receive certification; and
- 90% of those certified will be placed in employment within one year.

