Grantee: Regents of the University of New Mexico

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico; New Mexico Works; Ambercare Home Health; Belen Meadows; Center for Ageless Living; Presbyterian Healthcare Systems; Socorro General Hospital; Veteran's Administration Hospital; Belen High School; Valencia High School; Belen Chamber of Commerce; Valencia County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and Valencia Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence

Grant Amount: $1,381,546

Leveraged Amount: $835,807

Location of Grant Activities: Valencia County, New Mexico

Challenge: Rural Valencia County has struggled in the past several years with a lack of medical facilities and staffing to provide healthcare services. Growth in the aging population has increased the need for skilled care; however, low educational attainment in the region presents challenges in addressing this worker shortage. Within seven years, New Mexico will need an estimated 11,000 nurses to keep pace with growing demands and to replace retirees. As the only community college in the region, University of New Mexico-Valencia County (UNM-VC) is facing capacity challenges in training Personal Care Attendant (PCA) and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) to enter the workforce.

Addressing the Challenge: UNM-VC will establish a nursing program in Valencia County that includes a nursing career ladder/lattice. The program will begin with the implementation of dual-credit courses for PCAs and CNAs at two local high schools. An Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program will be implemented at UNM-VC and graduates will have the opportunity to articulate directly into a distance learning Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the University of New Mexico's main campus. This program will fulfill the need for skilled healthcare workers.

Projected Outcomes:
- 552 participants will be served.
- At least 80 percent of participants will receive a credential.
- 88 percent of participants will enter employment.
- 80 percent of participants will experience a wage gain as a result of training.