

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Pulaski Technical College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,271,550

AREA SERVED: Pulaski, Saline, Faulkner and Lonoke Counties, Arkansas

INDUSTRY: Transportation

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$3,884,000 in leveraged resources from 21 employer partners, 4 workforce partners and 3 education partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: The transportation industry indicates that worker shortages in automotive, trucking, and heavy equipment are severe. The training offered by the college has been filled to capacity for the past three years; enrollment and space limits have forced the college to turn students away and have prevented the college from offering training for truck drivers. The college is only able to provide entry-level training for auto mechanics, collision repairers, and diesel mechanics. As a result, workers have had to be sent out of state for advanced training.

ACTIVITIES: The project will develop state-of-the-art training programs to address transportation industry shortages and overcome the barriers that have limited the college's capacity to meet those needs. The college will enhance existing curricula and expand credentialing opportunities for the following programs: Automobile Technology, Collision Repair, and Diesel Mechanics, including, initiation of an Associate of Applied Science degree in those areas. A new training program for licensed commercial drivers will be developed. All programs will be industry-certified and meet Arkansas Department of Higher Education specifications as well as appropriate manufacturer-specific credentials. The project will integrate industry-driven capacity building and training activities by providing modern equipment and technology with input from industry leaders. The college will work with area high schools to provide college credit to students and inform students of training and possible employment opportunities in the industry.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- 520 students will be enrolled in all targeted programs;
- 206 students will complete technical certificate programs in automotive, collision repair, diesel mechanics, and truck driving/advanced training programs in the first year;
- 90% of graduates completing programs in auto technology, diesel mechanics, collision repair, and truck driving will be hired within three months after program completion;
- 90% of adult graduates will retain employment six months after program completion;
- 90% of adult graduates will earn salaries higher than pre-training earnings within six months after program completion;
- Increase the number of youth concurrently enrolled in Pulaski Technical College's automotive programs and local high schools by 20% by Fall 2007; and
- Increase participation of Workforce Centers' summer youth by 20% over 2004 baseline.

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EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Community-Based Job Training Grants
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