

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges

Grantee: Illinois Eastern Community Colleges

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Crossroads Workforce Investment Board (WIB); Southern 14 WIB; Illinois Department of Human Services Family Community Resources Centers; and Illinois State Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Grant Amount: \$1,923,719

Location of Grant Activities: Eastern Illinois

Challenge: Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) is one of only two multi-college districts in the state of Illinois. IECC is comprised of four colleges, which serve as the only higher educational institutions within a 100-mile radius and which are the primary providers of adult education. The IECC district faces a steady decline in population, largely due to jobs and companies leaving the area. Manufacturing supports the area with industries in the primary counties of the IECC district, employing nearly 8,000 individuals in manufacturing occupations. However, growth in the manufacturing industry's new technologies has outpaced the colleges' ability to meet the industry's need for a skilled workforce. Community colleges must redesign and revamp the career and technical programs that educate and train the workforce in order to meet industry's demand.

Addressing the Challenge: The Career and Technical Education Center will focus on building the capacity of existing career and technical education programs that are relevant to advanced manufacturing. The program will develop and implement new career and technical education programs that represent innovative and emerging career fields. In addition, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges will work to strengthen and expand the services and resources of the District's Business and Industry Services Center, to provide timely services to local industries. The program will also build the capacity for high school students to access high-growth career programs at the Center.

Projected Outcomes:

- 20% increase in student enrollment in existing manufacturing programs.
- 20 new students enrolled in new programs.
- 15% increase in retention and graduation rates.
- 10% increase in job placement rates.
- 50% increase in business and industry training.

