
Community-Based Job Training Grants

Oklahoma State University



Grantee: Oklahoma State University

Industry Focus: Energy

Key Partners: Metro Technology Centers; High Plains Technology Center; Oklahoma Gas & Electric; and Central Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board.

Grant Amount: \$1,480,708

Leveraged Amount: \$333,250

Location of Grant Activities: Central Oklahoma

Challenge: Industry experts predict that thousands of wind turbines will be erected in Oklahoma in the next few years. These turbines will require maintenance and repair by qualified wind turbine technicians. Projections for one major electric utility in Oklahoma indicate that it alone will need to hire nearly 100 wind turbine technicians annually for the next 15 to 20 years.

Addressing the Challenge: Oklahoma State University (OSU) will establish a Wind Turbine Technology (WTT) degree program to prepare individuals to work in the field of wind energy and High Plains Technical Institute will provide a site for valuable “hands-on” instruction. A WTT advisory committee, comprised of both industry experts and educators, will provide overall direction for the new degree program. The project will result in a standardized curriculum for wind turbine training that can be utilized nationwide. Capacity building activities that will be supported by the project include hiring qualified, experienced faculty members to teach in the WTT program and securing the facilities, equipment, and materials necessary to support the program. A range of activities will be available through partners such as assessments, supportive services, and remediation services to raise the basic skills of participants.

Projected Outcomes:

- 600 participants will be served.
- 300 participants will enter education and training activities.
- 210 participants will complete education and training activities.
- 200 participants will enter employment.
- 190 participants will receive a certification.

