

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Transportation and Logistics Career Pathway Project

Grant Amount: \$1,350,655

Grantee: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Key Partners: ABF Freight System, Inc.; Applied Simulation Technologies; Arkansas Workforce Investment Board; Covenant; Eastern Arkansas Workforce Investment Board; Instructional Technologies, Inc.; JOBehaviors, Inc.; Mid-South Community College; One-Stop Career Centers; P.A.M Transport; Roadmaster Truck Drivers School; Schneider National, Inc.; Stevens Transport; Teamsters National Education and Training Fund; TransAm; USA Truck; Werner Enterprises; and YRC Worldwide Inc.

Leveraged Amount: \$2,669,265

Location of Grant Activities: The Arkansas Delta and Greater Memphis region, which includes the Arkansas counties of Cross, Crittenden, St. Francis, Lee and Phillips.

Challenge: The Arkansas Delta and Greater Memphis region represents one of the largest and most dynamic transportation and logistics hubs in America. Within this region, the transportation industry has an immediate and growing requirement for commercial truck drivers, as illustrated by the 400 truck driving job positions available in Arkansas alone.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will provide disadvantaged job applicants with an opportunity to enter the transportation industry as a driver, and will articulate the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) credential with the Technical Certificate in Heavy-Truck Diesel Maintenance while opening an entry point into a career pathway of education. The project will link with the career pathway in transportation and logistics, increase the capacity of education in the region, especially at Mid-South Community College, and support the development of a registered apprenticeship program for truck drivers. This project also supports the vision and goals of the Arkansas Delta Workforce Innovations in Regional Economic Development (ADWIRED) initiative, which aims to improve the prosperity of the Arkansas Delta and make it a focal point of innovation and commerce to the rest of the country.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 150 commercial truck drivers for the transportation industry, with special emphasis on under-employed and unemployed adults.
- Create a rapid-response workforce which can deploy to regions impacted by man-made or natural disasters and immediately provide displaced workers with employable skills for the transportation industry.
- Create a scaleable model to illustrate how partnerships among employers, training providers, community colleges, the workforce investment system, and state and federal agencies can provide rapid-response workforce training to regions affected by economic shocks.
- Develop a registered apprenticeship program for truck drivers.

