President's Community-Based Job Training Grants
George C. Wallace Community College

AWARD AMOUNT: $1,921,841

AREA SERVED: Southeast Alabama, Northwest Florida, Southwest Georgia

INDUSTRY: Healthcare

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: $1,241,750 in leveraged resources from four employer partners, one workforce partner and four education partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: Regional healthcare facilities have a shortage in virtually every medical profession. The shortage of registered nurses is especially critical. The college's efforts to meet current and future workforce needs are constrained by the following challenges: 1) Inadequate resources to start-up, expand and upgrade curriculum and deliver training programs; 2) The high cost of upgrading healthcare classroom and lab equipment with technology; 3) A competitive local healthcare job market that impacts the college's ability to attract and retain faculty; and 4) The demand for access to training from non-traditional students.

ACTIVITIES: Wallace Community College's Tri-State Rural Access in Nursing (TRAIN) program will: 1) Expand nursing program capacity by upgrading and expanding classroom and laboratory facilities, and designing and implementing a 15-week Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) curriculum for entry-level healthcare workers; 2) Improve healthcare student retention by developing a healthcare retention support lab to improve academic support, counseling, advising, mentoring, study skills, time management and employability skills instruction; and 3) Develop a healthcare career ladder program to support program admission and career advancement. Dual high school/college credit courses and academic support services will be provided to produce graduates who have the academic skills needed for entry into healthcare programs directly from high school. Career TRAIN will also recruit healthcare students interested in career advancement through a nursing career ladder (Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)-Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)-Associate Degree Nurse (ADN) – Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)).

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:
- Adapt curriculum and delivery options based on healthcare industry input;
- Increase the number of CNA students admitted to a 15-week training program annually by 75;
- Increase student retention in CNA, LPN and ADN programs by 70%, 75% and 85% respectively;
- Increase number of nursing graduates in CNA, LPN and ADN programs by 53, 123 and 100 respectively; and
- Increase admissions to healthcare programs for high school graduates by 120.