

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Lanier Technical College

Grantee: Lanier Technical College

Industry Focus: Biotechnology

Key Partners: Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center Workforce Investment Board; Georgia Mountains Workforce Investment Board; DeKalb Workforce Investment Board; Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Inc; Meril Select-Merck and Company, Inc; Gwinnett Medical Center; Georgia Bioscience Joint Development Authority; Elan Pharmaceuticals Inc; Kiel Laboratories; Rhodia Inc; Stepan Company; Northside Hospital-Forsyth; Barrow County Schools; Office of Adult Education; YMCA of Georgia's Piedmont/Winder Barrow Project Brad Akins Branch; Barrow County Chamber of Commerce; Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce; Georgia Mountain Regional Development Center; Atlanta Regional Commission-Innovation Crescent; Governor's Office of Workforce Development; Technical College System of Georgia; Hall County Government Board of Commissioners; and the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

Grant Amount: \$794,480

Leveraged Amount: \$750,579

Location of Grant Activities: Northeast Georgia

Challenge: There is only one existing Clinical Lab Technology Associate Degree program, on one campus, serving northeast Georgia; however, there are jobs available in the biotechnology industry because the industry continues to be transformed by changing technology. Also, specialized skills in operating clinical labs, equipment, diagnostics, forensics, and lab infrastructure are on the rise. Advances in the use of a wide variety of technologies require continuous upgrading of training and instruction for incumbent and new workers to obtain and maintain credentials.

Addressing the Challenge: The Clinical Learning Expansion And Recruitment (CLEAR) Initiative will build capacity and training to increase lab technician enrollment and graduates to meet the employers' needs in rural northeast Georgia. The initiative will fully implement a CLEAR regional delivery system that will train students through a highly accessible technology-based distance learning program, an online-hybrid program-course model. This will help mitigate the shortage of a skilled workforce for the biotechnology industry. In addition, the CLEAR program will expand to additional campuses, making the clinical lab program more accessible.

Projected Outcomes:

- 400 participants will be served by the program, with 340 participants beginning the education and training activities, and 225 participants completing the education and training activities.
- 186 participants will complete education and training and receive a degree or certificate.
- 200 participants will enter employment after completing the education and training activities.
- 80 percent of those participants entering employment will be retained.

