
Community-Based Job Training Grants

John Wood Community College



Grantee: John Wood Community College

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Workforce Investment Board of Western Illinois; West Central Region Education Board of Control; Gardner-Denver; Great River Economic Development Foundation; Knapheide Manufacturing; Midwest Pattern; Quincy Metal Fabricators; and GAMM, Inc.

Grant Amount: \$805,415

Leveraged Amount: \$1,759,125

Location of Grant Activities: Tri-state area of Western Illinois, Northeastern Missouri, and Southeastern Iowa.

Challenge: There are 99 advanced manufacturing employers in the tri-state region attempting to fill positions at an average salary of \$43,264 per year, which is well above other occupations in the area. No continuing education opportunities exist within 100 miles for workers to update skills on current equipment or advanced manufacturing technology. Many current job holders are approaching retirement age and will have to be replaced in the near future, which will further increase the number of unfilled skilled positions.

Addressing the Challenge: The John Wood Community College (JWCC) project will meet the capacity and training needs of the tri-state manufacturing industry by creating an Associate Degree in Manufacturing Technology. The community college will obtain the equipment that is necessary to train entry-level workers. JWCC will hire new faculty and expand contract training for incumbent workers. Training will be available to individuals throughout the Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri tri-state region who have limited access to similar training.

Projected Outcomes:

- 160 participants will be enrolled in education and job training activities.
- 75 participants will complete the education and training program and receive a degree.
- 62 participants that completed the program will enter employment.
- 75% of program participants who enter employment will still be employed at six months.

