

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Jefferson Community College

Grantee: Jefferson Community College

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: Local Area 17 Workforce Investment Board for Mahoning and Columbiana Counties; Local Area 18 Workforce Investment Board for Trumbull County; Lorain County Community College; Kent State University; Youngstown State University; MAGNET; Northeast Ohio HealthForce; the Advanced Manufacturing Initiative; Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana County Educational Service Centers; Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana Choffin Career & Technical Centers; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Youngstown; New Life Technical Institute; Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative; and the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Regional Economic Development.

Grant Amount: \$1,902,703

Leveraged Amount: \$1,902,703

Location of Grant Activities: Eastern Ohio

Challenge: Post-secondary education is regarded as the only means by which the residents of Mahoning Valley can qualify for higher-level jobs critical to the revitalization of the local economy. A lack of access and adequate preparation for higher education programs, combined with student inability to obtain associate or four-year degrees, is negatively impacting regional economic development and the ability of residents to qualify for available job opportunities. A study by Youngstown State University found that 64 percent of business leaders said a community college was needed in the Mahoning Valley and identified healthcare and manufacturing as industries that would drive regional employment opportunities.

Addressing the Challenge: Providing a Virtual Community College in Rural Eastern Ohio will 1) create a "virtual community college" coupled with a "Go College" strategy that will prepare eastern Ohio residents for college and provide a pipeline of skilled workers; 2) recruit large numbers of individuals who want to pursue community college education; and 3) offer a continuum of education and training services that provide pathways to college certificates and associate degrees, and prepare residents to pursue bachelors degrees.

Projected Outcomes:

- 24 nursing, 12 respiratory therapy, 125 welding, 30 IT, and 400 "Go College" participants will receive a degree or certificate.
- The program will increase college enrollment by over 4,000.
- 443 program participants will enter employment.
- 2,000 participants will benefit from the "Go College" program.

