

# Community-Based Job Training Grants

## *Western Technical College*

**Grantee:** Western Technical College

**Industry Focus:** Advanced Manufacturing

**Key Partners:** Workforce Connections, Inc; Department of Workforce Development; Seven Rivers Region; Cooperative Education Service Agencies 3 and 4; Lacrosse Area Chamber of Commerce; Greater Mauston Area Development Corp.; Juneau County Economic Development Corp; Lacrosse County Economic Development Fund; Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission; Equipment and Metal Manufacturing Association; Vernon Economic Development Association; Dura Tech Industries; D&S Manufacturing; Inland Label & Marketing Services; PACAL Industries, LLC; Toro Company; eight school districts and two high schools; and Lacrosse County Veterans' Service.

**Grant Amount:** \$1,999,659

**Leveraged Amount:** \$449,327

**Location of Grant Activities:** Western Wisconsin

**Challenge:** The Lacrosse region has a significant history in manufacturing. However, it is jeopardized by challenges including impending retirements of current workers and a pipeline that is not producing new workers quickly enough to meet demand. The training pipeline needs to be widened to deliver greater numbers of skilled workers to the manufacturing industry.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The partnership, led by Western Technical College (WTC) in Lacrosse, will conduct activities directed toward three potential labor groups. In the K-12 education arena, the project will align curriculum between high schools and WTC; develop stronger links between local industries and the school districts; and develop a community Web site focused on career opportunities. In the Training & Tech College area, the project will strengthen the capacity to provide on-site incumbent worker training in welding, Computer Numerical Control, and industrial electronic maintenance by locating portable classrooms in proximity to manufacturers. In the industry sector, it will provide traveling trainers to deliver on-demand training to industry partners; develop a modular-based Skills Institute for on-demand instruction; and expand Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) and LEAN certifications.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- 1,174 participants will enroll in education and training activities.
- 988 participants will complete the education and training program.
- 791 participants will receive a degree or certificate.
- 815 incumbent workers, 192 new workers, and 30 veterans will be served.
- 79 percent of participants will enter employment.

