

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College

Grantee: Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College

Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing

Key Partners: The Utah Department of Workforce Services; Utah Manufacturers Association; Utah Department of Veteran Affairs; Barnes Aerospace, Petersen. Inc; JBT AeroTech; Nucor Steel Company; Utility Trailer, Inc; and Weber State University.

Grant Amount: \$1,023,740

Leveraged Amount: \$403,200

Location of Grant Activities: Ogden, Utah

Challenge: In Weber County, Utah, hundreds of welding jobs go unfulfilled, forcing industrial employers to recruit as far away as the Midwest and Canada. The shortage of skilled welders has had a significant impact on the economic development of Weber County and northern Utah, limiting growth in fields such as advanced manufacturing and aerospace. Welding is also being transformed by new technology, requiring new skill sets for workers and advanced certifications.

Addressing the Challenge: The Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College (OWATC) 21st Century Welding Technology Initiative will enhance its training capacity through the purchase of curriculum and enhanced instructor training. This initiative will also increase the ability of OWATC to train new welders and upgrade the training of experienced welders. The primary focus will be to provide 50 percent of the cost of tuition fees and books for a minimum of 100 new welders and provide upgrade training to a minimum of 200 experienced welders. For the 100 new welding students, recruitment will focus on high school juniors and seniors, adults referred through the state Workforce Investment Act program, adults referred by community and faith-based organizations, and self-referred adults. Experienced workers will be recruited through industry and the general public. The project will also revitalize the college's welding technology facility and equipment to meet industry standards.

Projected Outcomes:

- 300 participants will be served.
- 75 percent of participants will complete a minimum of one training certification.
- 90 percent of upgrade participants (experienced welders) will be employed at the end of the training.
- 90 percent of new welders will be employed at the end of the training (defined as completion of basic welding program or interim employment-eligible certification).

