

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Geospatial Imagery Analysis Technicians

Grant amount: \$990,125

Grantee: William Goodling Advanced Skills Center (ASC)

Key Partners: South Central Workforce Investment Board, Harrisburg Community College, the Manufacturers' Association of South Central Pennsylvania, York County Board of Commissioners, Pa. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pa. Office of Administration, Pa. Department of Agriculture, Pa. Department of Community and Economic Development, Pa. Department of Labor and Industry, York County District High Schools, the York County Alliance for Learning, the York Area Labor Management Council, Penn State – York Campus, Harrisburg University, and Rural Economic Development Data and Intelligence (REDDI), Pa. Bureau of Geospatial Technologies.

Leveraged Amount: \$495,000 from public and private partners in Pennsylvania

Location of Grant Activities: York, Pennsylvania

Challenge: In its *10-Year Industry Forecast*, the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing states that the current academic environment for geospatial technology is characterized by small and inflexible programs that often cannot “adjust rapidly to new advancements taking place in the industry.” Geospatial stakeholders agreed, indicating that there is a lack of training for “day-to-day, technician level imagery manipulation and analysis and development of GIS data layers and mapping projects. That is where the bulk of the jobs are.” Moreover, municipal governments, among the largest users of geospatial information, have no certificate programs focused on their specific geospatial needs.

Addressing the Challenge: With its \$990,125 grant, the ASC will establish a geospatial technology education training center to support user-focused applications. ASC will develop a certificate program in geospatial information systems (GIS) in private and municipal applications with 2+2+2 articulation agreements with community colleges and universities to produce GIS technicians. These 2+2+2 articulation agreements provide students and/or workers with career and education advancement tracks, enabled by linked curriculum and levels of education, training and certifications at high school, community college and university levels. The program will be targeted to high-school students, dislocated workers, and underemployed adults. It will also include internship opportunities.

Projected Outcomes:

- 100 adults trained as either GIS technicians or to support municipal workers (planning, first responders, etc)
- 25 high school students trained as GIS technicians
- 25 individuals trained in post-secondary programs for either GIS certifications and/or support municipal worker certifications
- 25 individuals filling positions needed in South Central Pa. Manufacturers' Association member companies, the State of Pennsylvania, and area municipalities
- Agreements and accreditation with high schools, community colleges and universities for a modified curriculum for GIS technicians
- Internships supported by the Pennsylvania GIS Coordinator providing on-the-job learning opportunities

* The term “geospatial industry” is not all-inclusive. It may refer to mapmakers, academics, and others engaged in such activities.

