

# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## *National Lean Enterprise Certification Program*

**Grant amount:** \$2,000,322

**Grantee:** 360vu Research and Education Foundation

**Grant activities** will take place nationwide

**Leveraged amount:** \$5,799,750 from employers, plus an additional \$2,000,653 from the U.S. Department of Commerce

**Key Partners:** 150 small- and medium-sized companies, primarily among the suppliers of Raytheon, Boeing, John Deere and DuPont, as well as Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers nationwide

**Challenge:** The capacity for innovation is the primary competitive advantage for U.S. manufacturers in the global marketplace. Thus, employers need workers who are continually focused on improving processes and products. Additionally, manufacturers increasingly need integrated training programs for workers throughout the supply chain. Small- and medium-sized manufacturers, in particular, rarely have the organizational capacity or experience to organize such training programs for their workers.

### **Addressing the Challenge:**

The Lean Enterprise Certification Program will create a path for individuals to acquire critical skills and a portable credential through completion of a nationally recognized, industry-led lean certification program. "Lean manufacturing" is a systematic approach to continuously improving the manufacturing process and eliminate waste. Adoption of lean principles allows companies to produce better quality products at lower prices and provides the flexibility to manufacture many different products without compromising the speed with which those products can be brought to the marketplace.

The program will have consistent curriculum, agreed-upon skill development and experience, and national recognition of gained credentials. This program will incorporate the elements of a performance-based apprenticeship program blending in-class instruction and on-the-job skills development. Partnering organizations, particularly local MEP Centers, will work with individuals and companies to apply the knowledge learned from the certification on the shop floor. Participating companies will realize improved global competitiveness through increased productivity and reduced production costs, along with the ability to retain and grow new jobs in the U.S. For individual workers, the effort will provide high-demand skills and a new, nationally-recognized credential. Workers with this credential will have enhanced career opportunities, with greater flexibility in career options and increased wages.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- A nationally recognized certification in lean manufacturing
- 1,900 individuals trained and certified

The logo for the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), consisting of the lowercase letters "eta" in a bold, sans-serif font inside a yellow square.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Advanced Manufacturing Industry Demonstration Grants  
Announced on July 1, 2005*