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# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium



**Grant amount:** \$5,935,402

**Grantee:** Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

**Key Partners:** Mid-South Community College, Arkansas Northeastern College, East Arkansas Community College, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, Department of Workforce Education, Arkansas Workforce Investment Board, Department of Higher Education, and the Department of Economic Development

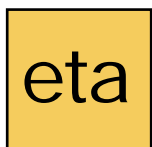
**Grant Activities** will take place in Eastern Arkansas

**Challenge:** Eastern Arkansas has seen a recent influx of automotive and advanced manufacturing plants, which the region plans to leverage to spur even greater economic development in the coming years. Local manufacturers already plan to hire more than 2,000 additional workers, and the possibility of construction of a major new automotive assembly plant could mean a total of approximately 3,000 manufacturing jobs in the near future. However, the region lacks the highly skilled workforce that new and expanding advanced manufacturing companies need, as well as the capacity to train the workforce in advanced processes and technology. Without adequate local training programs, manufacturers could be forced to look elsewhere as they expand.

**Addressing the Challenge:** In response to the local workforce needs and regional economic development opportunities, four community colleges have come together under the leadership of the state government to create the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium. The Consortium will work to increase the pipeline of workers into advanced manufacturing training programs, and train those workers in such skills as programmable logic controllers, electronics/electrical, hydraulics and pneumatics, robotics, advanced welding, plastics engineering, and computer numerical controlled machining.

**Projected Outcomes:**

- Train a minimum of 2,500 new workers for the automotive and advanced manufacturing industries;
- Create a high school program in Advanced Manufacturing Technology that will be linked to credit towards a Baccalaureate of Applied Science Degree with all four community college partners;
- Create regional skill centers that are responsive to local industry requirements and develop procedures for pooling and sharing resources throughout the region.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Advanced Manufacturing Demonstration Grants  
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