

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Nebraska Mechatronics Education Center (MEC)

Grant amount: \$1,639,403

Grantee: Central Community College (CCC) with campuses in Columbus, Grand Island, and Hastings, Nebraska

Key partners: Six Nebraska Community Colleges, Ten Nebraska High Schools, Festo Corporation, Ten Nebraska Businesses (e.g. - Behlen Mfg. Co., BD Medical Surgical Systems, Cargill Meat Solutions), Three four-year universities, Nebraska Workforce Investment Boards, Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Department of Labor, and Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Leveraged amount: \$1,410,928 from local employers

Grant activities will take place in business and education throughout the state of Nebraska.

Challenge:

Rising global competition, the rapid advancement of technology, and the aging manufacturing workforce have dramatically changed manufacturers' workforce needs. Manufacturers face difficulties recruiting highly trained, technologically savvy workers.

Addressing the Challenge:

The Nebraska Mechatronics Education Center (MEC) will work with its partners to provide individuals with industrial training that will prepare them for high skill, high wage manufacturing jobs. MEC training materials will focus on industry-driven Mechatronics training. Mechatronics refers to the synergistic integration of multiple engineering disciplines, such as mechanical design, electronics, and computer control, to achieve new or improved devices and systems. MEC will develop a unique curriculum which will be available to incumbent and new workers as well as high school and college students through classroom and simulation training. To promote professions in advanced manufacturing, teachers and high school students also will have access to the innovative simulation software.

Projected Outcomes:

- Manufacturing technology curriculum utilizing advanced interactive simulation software and a Manufacturing Learning Laboratory will be developed to train workers.
- Trained educators who will, in turn, implement the program for high school and college students, as well as entry level, intermediate, and experienced employees.
- Underrepresented groups and dislocated workers will have access to high demand manufacturing technology training.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Advanced Manufacturing Industry Demonstration Grants
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