
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative *Integrated Systems Technology Training for Dislocated Workers*



Grant amounts: \$4,796,248 (Illinois); \$4,346,248 (Ohio)

Grantee: National Center for Integrated Systems Technology (NCIST)

Leveraged amount: \$360,000 in cash and \$16,470,867 in-kind from partnering companies (Caterpillar and Amatrol) and community colleges

Key Partners: Caterpillar, Amatrol, Tower Automotive, Therm-O-Disc, Sweetheart Cup, and other local manufacturers; Illinois Community colleges (Elgin, Moraine Vallery, Richard J. Daley, Rock Valley); Ohio Community Colleges (Cuyahoga, North Central State, Owens, Sinclair); and local Workforce Investment Boards.

Grant activities will take place in Cleveland, Mansfield, Northwood, and Dayton, Ohio; and Chicago, Elgin, Palos Hills, and Rockford, Illinois.

Challenge:

As production equipment and processes become increasingly high-tech, American manufacturers require highly skilled workers who can operate, troubleshoot, and maintain complex, integrated technologies.

Addressing the Challenge:

In anticipation of large-scale retirements and a future scarcity trained IST technicians, Caterpillar and Amatrol have invested significantly in this project. Their support permitted development of curriculum now being utilized by eight community colleges in Ohio and Illinois to train dislocated workers to industry standards for these high-tech, high-wage positions. One-Stop Career Centers in each of the eight communities provide assessment, job placement, and supportive services. Participants in the program receive training in working with electrical systems, electronics, hydraulics and pneumatics, piping systems, electronic sensors, basic mechanical devices, and how these systems interact with one another. Since March 2003, when the first local IST program graduated its first class, 368 dislocated workers have successfully completed training, and 226 of those have obtained employment. IST graduates have been hired by 157 companies in Illinois and Ohio.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train at least 600 IST technicians and find employment for at least 80 percent of those completing the training.
- The curriculum and courses at the community colleges will continue to be offered past the period of the grant.
- Relationships with the One Stops and the business community, including the 157 companies hiring IST graduates, will continue past the period of the grant.

