President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

The Conn.-Western Mass. Collaborative for Aerospace, Metalworking and Medical Devices

Grantee: Connecticut Business and Industry Association

Key Partners: Aerospace Components Manufacturers, Metal Manufacturers Cluster Initiative, Regional NetWorks, Connecticut Community College System, four Connecticut and one Massachusetts Workforce Investment Boards, Connecticut's Department of Labor and Department of Economic and Community Development, Hartford Job Corps, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Center for Manufacturing Supply Chain Integration, and individual employers, including U.S. Surgical, Pratt and Whitney, and Trumpf.

Grant Amount: $1,775,030

Leveraged Amount: $929,223

Location of Grant Activities: Connecticut (statewide) and western Massachusetts

Challenge: Connecticut community college programs do not offer a comprehensive certificate or degree program that covers both the internal process improvement requirements and external supply chain demands of employers. Moreover, new production workers, as well as current machinists and technicians, often lack preparation in lean/six sigma, supply chain management, and new technologies. At the same time, small and mid-size employers struggle to remain competitive.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will focus on meeting the common workforce development needs of aerospace, fabricated metals and medical device supply chains in two states. It also will enhance the community college system's ability to develop and deliver high quality advanced manufacturing courses for both entry-level and incumbent workers that meet industry demand; utilize the unique 12-college consortium under the College of Technology to develop just-in-time, non-credit certificate programs that can be readily converted to credit certificates or degrees to meet employee needs; pilot the use of blended learning strategies that include distance learning and simulation; identify and screen potential job seekers from among dislocated and current workers; and use Individual Training Accounts, discretionary and incumbent worker funds for their training.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 370 job seekers, dislocated workers, and incumbent workers for 25 companies
- Develop a Continuous Improvement and Supply Chain Management Certificate program for entry and technician-level workers
- Establish 3-D simulation training for Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines