
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Manufacturing for Oklahoma's Vital Economic Sustainability (Project MOVES)

Grantee: State of Oklahoma

Key Partners: Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development, Oklahoma State University - Okmulgee, Thunderbird Trades Academy, Oklahoma City Southeast High School for Technology, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Northeast Oklahoma Manufacturers Council, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, and local Workforce Investment Boards.

Grant Amount: \$1,500,000

Leveraged Amount: \$6,054,691

Location of Grant Activities: Oklahoma (statewide)

Challenge: Oklahoma's advanced manufacturing industry employs over 10% of the state's workforce at an average salary that is more than \$8,000 above the national average. There are more than 4,500 advanced manufacturing employers in the state, and many are suffering from critical worker shortages. While retaining current workers and retraining dislocated workers is vital for the industry, it is equally important that the emerging workforce be prepared to enter advanced manufacturing.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will train some of Oklahoma's most disadvantaged youth for fulfilling careers in the advanced manufacturing industry. Specifically, a career pathways model will be developed to connect young people to manufacturing training and careers. The model will be piloted with youth aging out of the foster care system and other disadvantaged youth. In addition, innovative work-based learning programs for limited-English speakers will be part of the project. The project also will utilize the local workforce investment system and Oklahoma's world-class Career Technology system to match training providers to business needs. Advanced Manufacturing Centers of Excellence will be created in the state's key manufacturing regions to assist incumbent workers and employers with leading-edge technologies in business processes and workforce development.

Projected Outcomes:

- Train 1,110 participants
- Establish three Advanced Manufacturing Centers of Excellence
- Provide workforce and business services to at least 200 companies
- Develop a Virtual Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing that will serve K-12 students and parents, industry, economic and workforce development entities, and institutions of higher education

