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# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## *Career Institute for Industrial Technologies*



**Grantee:** Western Iowa Tech Community College

**Key Partners:** Tyson Fresh Meats, John Morrell & Company, Gelita North America, VT Industries, Smurfit-Stone Container, Sioux City Community School District, Iowa Region 12 Workforce Investment Board (WIB), Iowa Workforce Development One-Stop Career Centers

**Grant Amount:** \$1,498,548

**Leveraged Amount:** \$8,568,046

**Location of Grant Activities:** Sioux City, Iowa region, including northwest Iowa, eastern Nebraska, and southeastern South Dakota

**Challenge:** The workforce challenges faced by this region include rising global competition, rapid upgrading of plant technology, an aging workforce, increasing numbers of Hispanic Americans with limited proficiency in English, and geographic isolation of small manufacturers from the community college's main campus. Manufacturers are facing difficulties with entry-level employees who lack the basic academic, workplace, and technical skills necessary to succeed in advanced manufacturing.

### **Addressing the Challenge:**

Western Iowa Tech Community College will provide skills training leading to credentials in numerous advanced manufacturing applications. This project will test and assess basic skill levels, to develop a program to bridge critical skill gaps, and develop customized training via multiple delivery models. For example, the project team will develop a digital library of interactive courses, or "Reusable Learning Objects," which are highly flexible and user-paced. In addition, the project will create a training lab for the emerging area of boiler thermodynamics, which is applicable to utilities, renewable fuels, and food processing. The project also will create a mobile training lab, outfitted with computers and basic training equipment, to deliver training to manufacturers across a large rural area.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- Train 275 new student and incumbent workers, with 200 incumbent workers earning industry-recognized credentials
- Update the credentialing system, assessment tools, training curriculum, and career ladders and lattices to reflect regional industry priorities
- Develop and host 100 Reusable Learning Objects
- Raise enrollment in advanced manufacturing training to 30 students per year
- Introduce Advanced Manufacturing career pathways model into Sioux City Community School District, targeting 2,120 ninth grade students, with a broader outreach to over 12,203 high school students in northwest Iowa