

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Blue Ridge Community College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,937,786

AREA SERVED: Shenandoah Valley, Virginia

INDUSTRY: Advanced Manufacturing

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$1.2 million in leveraged resources from fifteen employer partners, four workforce partners, nine education partners and five other partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: The Shenandoah Valley faces complex workforce development issues: low resident education levels, inadequate skill sets, lack of technology skills, and depleted workforce capacity. The manufacturing training programs are heavily enrolled and working students must sometimes wait several semesters to get into required courses. One of the impediments to quality and advancement of instruction to the next level is the lack of laboratories to stimulate real-world tasks. Additionally, freight carriers have frequently requested the college upgrade its commercial driving equipment for class A and B programs.

ACTIVITIES: This project will expand the capacity of several programs: the Associate Degree in Applied Science (A.A.S.) Technical Studies; the High Performance Manufacturing certificate program; the Commercial Driving Licensure Class A and B; and the English Language Workplace Literacy program. An additional concentration in automation technology and a prep course for the Certified Manufacturing Technologist national certification will be developed. Two state-of-the-art regional advanced manufacturing centers will be established. Finally, the project will provide middle school and high school students with career information through outreach activities. 11th and 12th grade students will be offered dual enrollment and internship opportunities.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- 1,400 students, parents, teachers and guidance counselors will learn about industry career pathways, education options and workforce opportunities;
- The A.A.S. Technical Studies program will increase capacity by 50%, 45 students will enroll;
- CDL Class A and B training programs will have a 20% capacity expansion and 300 participants will enroll;
- Capacity in two existing programs will increase by 17% and the Maintenance Manufacturing Technology program will be added with a total enrollment of 250 students; and
- English language industry specific workplace literacy and cultural awareness training will be provided to 325 prospective new entrants, employees and employers.

