

President's Community-Based Job Training Grants

Trustees of Haywood Community College

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,696,974

AREA SERVED: Western North Carolina

INDUSTRY: Forestry

KEY PARTNERS AND LEVERAGED RESOURCES: \$1,600,000 in leveraged resources from an employer partner, a workforce partner, two education partners and five other partners

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS: In western North Carolina, forest-related industries are an important economic resource. Blue Ridge Paper Products, the largest employer in western North Carolina, anticipates over 600 vacancies in the next five to seven years. Haywood Community College, the only community college in the western part of the state offering degree programs in natural resources, is at capacity for staff and facilities. The forest industry requires workers trained with upgraded curriculum to maintain its place in the global marketplace.

ACTIVITIES: Haywood Community College proposes to hire seven new staff to upgrade and develop technical and online courses for training forest industry workers. Forest management and fish and wildlife instructional equipment will be upgraded to include state-of-the-art technologies. The College will create two new labs – a GIS/GPS computer lab and a pulp and paper technology lab. It will also develop a recruitment program to attract students to the industry. The program will target unemployed and underemployed individuals in rural communities, existing forestry workers seeking a skills upgrade, and high school and college students. Training leads to an A.A.S. degree.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES:

- Seven new staff and instructors will be hired to increase capacity for training;
- A.A.S. in Pulp and Paper Products will be offered online to enhance distance learning opportunities;
- Enrollment will double in the new ecotourism and logger training programs during the grant period;
- 150 students will be recruited from high schools and the community;
- 65 technical courses and 45 online courses will be developed and/or upgraded and made available to other institutions at no cost;
- Training will be provided to unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers and youth; and
- Job placement services will be provided for 60% of students completing a certificate, diploma and degree in forestry.

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EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Community-Based Job Training Grants
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