President's High Growth Job Training Initiative
The Arizona Information Technology Skills Training Initiative

Grant amount: $3,403,168

Grantee: State of Arizona

Key Partners: The Office of the Governor of Arizona, Arizona's Department of Commerce, IBM, IBM Technical Learning, Northland Pioneer College, Mesa Community College

Leveraged Amount: $1,903,720 in kind and $700,000 in cash

Grant Activities will take place throughout Arizona.

Challenges:
- To increase the skills of Arizona workers through the development of new curricula in Software Quality Engineering (SQE) that leads directly to an industry-recognized SQE certification
- To address the critical worker shortage in software quality engineering through Arizona's community colleges and the nation's One-Stop Career Centers.

Addressing the Challenge: The State of Arizona will implement a new three-course curriculum in software quality engineering and testing, which has been identified as a skill in critical short supply. This curriculum will include the design and implementation of e-learning modules and other self-paced systems as well as instructor-led learning. Successful completion of the final exam for all three courses earns students an industry-recognized SQE Certification from IBM.

The training program will capture best practices for engineering quality software, testing software, and analyzing the quality of software. Curriculum development will be done in collaboration with the technical development education team at IBM and partner community colleges. This program will be added to the Department of Labor's list of Apprenticeable Occupations. Once training is developed for instructors, this model can be replicated in other schools and companies within Arizona and across the nation.

Projected Outcomes:
- A total of 1,521 individuals will be trained over the three-year life of the project
- Approximately 900 incumbent workers will receive training, with 53 percent receiving a wage increase and 15 percent earning a promotion
- At least 20 community college instructors and other educators will be trained to deliver the new curriculum. These instructors will then teach an additional 600 students seeking an IBM certification in software quality engineering.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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