Regional Strategies

non-traditional, cluster-based grant programs

Aerospace Workforce Innovation Network (AWIN)

Aerospace and Defense Industry Cluster

Houston (Harris County/Gulf Coast Region)

Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs

Aerospace Workforce Innovation Network (AWIN) Executive Summary

AWIN Purpose:

Develop creative/collaborative responses to major workforce transitions in the aerospace industry occurring because of Shuttle phase out and Constellation startup.

Aerospace Workforce Innovation Network (AWIN) Regional Partners and Stakeholders

- Key partners: Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, San Jacinto College/Aerospace Academy, College of the Mainland, University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of Houston-Central-College of Engineering, University of Houston-Central, College of Technology, Space Center Houston, regional high schools, Gulf Coast Workforce Board
- Key stakeholders
 - Employers: NASA and its contractors
 - Industry advisory groups: Aerospace Advisory Board, Johnson Space Center Workforce Transition Committee, others
 - Regional leadership and planning agencies: Above partners and groups plus Gulf Coast Workforce Board
 - Target impact groups:
 - Incumbent or dislocated workers
 - Attraction and retention of students
 - Transitioning workers
 - Development of educators and councilors

- Innovative high school through graduate credit and continuing education curriculum development and activities to inspire youth 14 and older
 - Develop a process to map key industry transition points
 - Develop a Competency Model and set priorities for filling gaps
 - Develop articulated career paths/ladders/lattices that consider workforce transitions
 - Develop/implement a program to assist impacted workers

Curriculum development

- UH Engr: Aero engineering grad/undergrad online courses; aero modules for high schools/college/public
- UHCL: Grad engineering mgmt courses; online systems engineering courses/certification
- UH Tech: Info security courses
- San Jacinto College: CE upgrade courses

- Articulation agreements
- Scholarships:
 - UH Engineering: Grad aero engineering
 - SJC: 500 dual credit STEM students
 - COM: STEM students

- High school activities
 - STEM workshops at SJC and COM: 200 teachers/counselors
 - Aero STEM distance learning for teachers/900 students (from Space Center Houston)
 - Week-long summer STEM workshops at JSC: 40 high school students
 - Summer dual credit workshops: 900 SJC students
 - Summer engineering workshops at COM

Sustainability Strategy

- New and innovative products to use/disseminate during and after the project
- Continuous Process Model to guide further development and delivery of activities
- New courses to deliver post project with other funds

Aerospace Workforce Innovation Network (AWIN) Key Issues and Challenges

Process issues

- Proposal Development: Large partnership involving industry/government/education/economic development
- Project/Contract Management: BAHEP lead partner; subcontract to SJC; other subcontracts

Project issues

- Defining the problem or opportunity: Made possible because of prior relationships with the industry
- Developing regional partnerships: Made possible because of extensive experience in multi-partnering
- Identifying resources: Individually and collaboratively
- Prioritizing strategies: Individually and collaboratively
- Defining aerospace skill needs: Ongoing with extensive prior work representing jumping off point
- Attraction and recruitment: Major focus because of immediate and long-term industry needs

Aerospace Workforce Innovation Network (AWIN) Primary Contacts

- Grant Recipient: Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
- Grantee Project Manager: Bob Mitchell
- **TWC Project Manager:** Robert Pounds
- **TWC Cluster Manager:** *Kaki Leyens*