

News Release

ETA News Release: [09/19/2012]
Contact Name: David Roberts or Laura McGinnis
Phone Number: (202) 693-5945 or x4653
Release Number: 12-1885-NAT

Obama administration announces \$500 million in community college grants to expand job training through local employer partnerships

Grants are the 2nd installment of \$2 billion, 4-year initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis today announced \$500 million in grants to community colleges and universities around the country for the development and expansion of innovative training programs. The grants are part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training initiative, which promotes skills development and employment opportunities in fields such as advanced manufacturing, transportation and health care, as well as science, technology, engineering and math careers through partnerships between training providers and local employers. The U.S. Department of Labor is implementing and administering the program in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education.

Speaking in Florida at St. Petersburg College, which is receiving \$15 million in funds to lead a consortium of community colleges across the state in developing programs focused on advanced manufacturing, Secretary Solis said: "These federal grants are part of the Obama administration's ongoing commitment to strengthening American businesses by strengthening the American workforce. This strategic investment will enhance ties among community colleges, universities, employers and other local partners while ensuring that students have access to the skills and resources they need to compete for high-wage, high-skill careers."

The initiative complements President Obama's broader goals to help ensure that every American has at least one year of postsecondary education and the U.S. has the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. Through this initiative, each state plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico will receive at least \$2.5 million in dedicated funding for community college career training programs.

In total, 297 schools will receive grants as individual applicants or as members of a consortium. The grants include 27 awards to community college and university consortia totaling \$359,237,048 and 27 awards to individual institutions totaling \$78,262,952. Twenty-five states that were without a winning individual submission will be contacted to develop a qualifying \$2.5 million project.

Educational institutions will use these funds to create affordable training programs that meet industry needs, invest in staff and educational resources, and provide access to free, digital learning materials. All education materials developed through the grants will be available for use by the public and other education providers through a Creative Commons license.

These grants emphasize evidence-based program design. Each grantee is required to collect rigorous student outcome data annually and conduct final evaluations at the end of the grant period to build knowledge about which strategies are most effective in placing graduates in jobs.

Learn more about the grant program at <http://www.doleta.gov/taaccct>. A list of grantees by state, including project descriptions, follows.

- [Read the Secretary's remarks at the grant announcement](#)

2012 TAACCCT Grants by State

ALABAMA

George C. Wallace Community College
Consortium Leader
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$10,083,236

Consortium members: Chipola College, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, Northwest Florida State College, Pensacola State College

The Alabama/Florida Technical Employment Network will address a growing disconnect between the skills of available workers and the regional demand for employees with skills for advanced manufacturing jobs. Targeting trade-impacted workers as well as the region's large population of veterans, the network will focus on areas of southern Alabama and northwest Florida where many adults have difficulty earning a family-sustaining wage. The project will use online/hybrid learning, mobile welding units, simulation technologies and open educational resources to expand learning opportunities, particularly in rural areas and small towns where access to education is especially challenging.

CARCAM/Gadsden State Community College
Consortium Member — [Henry Ford Community College Consortium](#)
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$15,000,000

University of West Alabama
Total Award Amount: \$2,195,132

The University of West Alabama, through a collaborative effort of its Industrial Maintenance Division of the College of Business and the Division of Outreach Services, along with service agencies and industry, will establish a comprehensive industrial technology training model for Trade Adjustment Assistance-eligible workers and other adults. The goal is to train workers in three tracks designed to lead to industry-recognized certificates and associate and bachelor's degrees for high-wage and high-skilled employment. The Applied Manufacturing Technology Program will provide customized training in manufacturing skills and technologies incorporated in all major manufacturing industries located within the institution's eight-county primary service area.

ALASKA

Kodiak College
Consortium Member — [Pueblo Community College Consortium](#)
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$14,171,229

University of Alaska Anchorage
Consortium Member — [Tyler Junior College Consortium](#)
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$12,040,449

ARIZONA

Estrella Mountain Community College
Consortium Leader
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$13,477,799

Consortium members: Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Northland Pioneer College, Pima Community College, Yavapai College Prescott

The Arizona Sun Corridor Get Into Energy Consortium initiative will employ a variety of innovative and proven workforce preparedness strategies to train trade-impacted workers and other adults for high-skill, high-wage employment, and advancement in energy and mining industries. The initiative advances sustainable solutions to meeting the critical demands of the energy and mining industries, while improving the content and delivery of education and training programs in the Arizona Sun Corridor.

CALIFORNIA

Los Medanos College
Consortium Leader
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$14,990,417

Consortium members: Berkeley City College, Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, Ohlone College, CSU East Bay, College of Alameda, Chabot College, Laney College, Merritt College, Solano College, University of California Berkeley

The workforce initiative will create a regional workforce system driven by multiple areas of service articulation, including: a regional "career path" educational system with stackable certificates within and across 10 community colleges, stronger and linked training referral and placement systems that integrate the work of the colleges and the Workforce Investment Act-funded One-Stop Career Center System, and development of "career transfer pathways" from the community colleges into the University of California and the California State University.

Cerritos College
Consortium Member — [Tyler Junior College Consortium](#)
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$12,040,449

City College of San Francisco, Los Angeles Valley College
Consortium Members — [Fortsyth Technical Community College Consortium](#)
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$14,998,474

East Los Angeles College
Total Award Amount: \$2,999,763

This project will elevate the college's success in preparing workers and students for a wide range of logistics jobs in a geographic area that is home to the world's fifth busiest port. Strategic objectives include increasing student completion success, accelerating student transitions into career path education, expanding local capacity to supply employees for forecasted labor demands in logistics, and accelerating student entry and transitions into logistics job fields requiring college-granted certificates.

Los Angeles Trade Technical College
Consortium Member — [Northern Virginia Community College Consortium](#)
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$12,296,029

COLORADO

Pueblo Community College
Consortium Leader
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$14,171,229

Consortium members: Kodiak College, Otero Junior College, Red Rocks Community College, Montana State University — Great Falls College of Technology, Flathead Valley Community College, Lake Area Technical Institute, Laramie County Community College

These programs will offer students the opportunity to acquire stackable certificates, allowing them to make progress in their profession as working adults while pursuing academic credentials. Additionally, many of the courses in these programs lattice so that students can more easily change their area of focus to a different allied health program and be able to apply their prior learning. As appropriate, partners will develop new lab exercises to provide students with the opportunity to conduct science experiments online.

CONNECTICUT

Norwalk Community College
Consortium Leader
Total Consortium Award Amount: \$12,096,394

Consortium members: Capital Community College, Gateway Community College, Manchester Community College, Middlesex Community College, Charter Oak State College, Eastern Connecticut State University

The Health and Life-Sciences Career Initiative will use three evidence-based program strategies to provide certifications, industry-recognized credentials, and associate degrees to prepare veterans, Trade Adjustment Assistance-impacted, dislocated and other underemployed workers for careers in growing health and life sciences occupations. Efforts will increase the use of online and technology-enabled learning through online and mobile app math and science booster modules, self-assessment and feedback surveys embedded in online course modules, online workplace skills assessment and development tools, and the migration of courses to online and hybrid delivery.