

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Monroe County Community College

Grantee: Monroe County Community College

Industry Focus: Construction

Key Partners: Southeast Michigan Community College Consortium; Southeast Michigan WIRED; Monroe Public Schools; Southeast Michigan Community Alliance Workforce Board; Utility Workers Union of America; International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 85-Ohio and Local 169-Detroit; United Association Local 671 (Plumbers and Pipefitters); DTE Energy; Midway Products Group; Marathon Petroleum Company; and Baker's Gas and Welding Supply.

Grant Amount: \$1,715,148

Leveraged Amount: \$232,441

Location of Grant Activities: Michigan

Challenge: Michigan's economy has led to seven consecutive years of job loss, and it is predicted that Michigan will register its fifth year of recession in 2008. Within Monroe County, this has led to significant unemployment rates. Despite this, there are still demands for skilled workers in construction, energy, and advanced manufacturing industries. Multi-industry occupations that require welding skills show a substantial number of new jobs for the Michigan and Ohio region, with 3,250 openings annually. Monroe County Community College (MCCC) faces several challenges in creating a state-of-the-art accelerated welding program to address local and regional demand, including limited financial and human resources; scheduling and curriculum challenges; and infrastructure barriers.

Addressing the Challenge: MCCC will establish a Welding Center of Expertise focusing on several key components: 1) hiring additional qualified faculty; 2) upgrading its existing welding laboratory to a state-of-the-art cross-categorical welding skills laboratory; and 3) developing an accelerated beginning and advanced welding program curriculum, delivered in a 10-week 250-hour format. The accelerated program will prepare participants to earn their American Welding Society QC-10 and QC-11 certifications and qualify them to enter advanced level employment, self-employment, and entry into local welding labor unions. In addition, the program will develop an eight-hour non-credit Foundational Skills Boot Camp based on the WorkKeys job skills assessment system, after which they will earn their National Career Readiness Certificate. Participants will also receive training in life skills, time management, and college readiness to help them successfully complete the program.

Projected Outcomes:

- 240 participants will be enrolled in the advanced welding program.
- 192 participants will complete the education and training activities.
- 80% of participants will receive American Welding Society QC10 and QC11 certification.
- 65% of program completers will enter training related employment.
- 90% of program completers who enter employment will retain employment.
- An average hourly pay of \$39 (including benefits) for participants entering employment will be achieved.