

METRO DENVER WIRED INITIATIVE SUBGRANT PROGRAM DETAILS



JumpStart

In January 2007, funds were awarded through the JumpStart grant program, the first subgrant process of the Metro Denver WIRED Initiative. JumpStart supports collaborations among existing education, training, entrepreneurship and other workforce or industry-specific career development partners that expand and/or replicate successful programs to serve the needs of the Metro Denver WIRED Initiative's target industries. Of the 25 applications received through a Request for Proposal process, ten were funded to a total of \$3.7 million.

- **A Replicable Model for Higher Education to Engage and Prepare High School Faculty and Staff in Emerging Technologies
Community College of Aurora (CCA)**
WIRED Grant Funding: \$430,000; Leveraged Funds: \$154,219
Program target: 59 educators trained; 6,108 students trained
This project will meet its goals by training high school teachers in bioscience instruction, using traveling science equipment kits and providing bioscience career information to teachers, students and counselors. The project is designed so that a limited number of state-of-the-art science kits are easily and equitably shared by schools in several school districts.
- **JumpStart into Aerospace
Community College of Denver (CCD)**
WIRED Grant Funding: \$360,000; Leveraged Funds: \$1,552,127
Program target: 615 students trained; 163 student completers
This program leveraged an existing NASA-funded degree program in Aerospace Systems Engineering Technology that targeted underserved populations. The WIRED program works with students at North High School, a school in the Denver Public Schools with a significant number of students in the free and reduced lunch program, which enrolls students in a pre-aerospace program at CCD, providing remediation and training to encourage students to go to CCD and Metro State College to major in aerospace-related disciplines.
- **Light Up Your Future: Education Today, Energy Tomorrow
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)**
WIRED Grant Funding: \$350,000; Leveraged Funds: \$110,350
Program target: 6 educators trained; 549 students impacted
CAEL's project, "Light Up Your Future: Education Today, Energy Tomorrow," is an online education program for high school students to build their skill levels and industry knowledge, and connect students to high-growth career opportunities at local energy companies. CAEL partnered with Xcel Energy and several local high schools

to provide an on-line education program for high school students to create a pipeline into high-growth careers at local energy companies.

- **11th Grade Internship Program**
Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST)
WIRED Grant Funding: \$160,000; Leveraged Funds: \$0
Program target: 143 students trained
DSST is providing an expanded internship program and relationships with companies in aerospace, bioscience, energy and IT/software for its high school students, 60% of whom are minorities, and 40% low-income. In April of 2008, DSST proudly announced that all of its seniors have been accepted into college. WIRED has also provided assistance to the school with connections to the IT industry.
- **Jobs for America's Graduates**
JAG Colorado
WIRED Grant Funding: \$350,000; Leveraged Funds: \$261,373
Program target: 245 low income/minority completers
JAG Colorado will extend programs to schools in an additional four counties in the Metro Denver WIRED region, focusing on preparing high school students for careers in the aerospace, bioscience, energy, and information technology industries.
- **Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA)**
The Colorado Minority Engineering Association (CMEA) – Colorado
WIRED Grant Funding: \$350,000; Leveraged Funds: 944,033
Program target: 1,460 students trained
MESA's JumpStart award accelerated the successful replication of its network for delivery of after school programs for pre-collegiate and college-prep STEM competency development and career pathway mentoring programs for low-income, women and minority students.
- **Energizing Metro Denver's Workforce: Building and Sustaining a Pipeline of Process and Maintenance Technicians**
Red Rocks Community College (RRCC)
WIRED Grant Funding: \$400,000; Leveraged Funds: \$469,867
Program target: 240 students trained; 28 student completers
RRCC trains process and maintenance technicians for the energy industry and manufacturing. The program begins at several local high schools where students receive college credit toward the Process Technology program taught at are RRCC. Industry partners in this project include Suncor, Xcel Energy, and Coors Brewing Company.
- **Business and IT Management (BITM)/Bilingual JumpStart Initiative**
Regis University
WIRED Grant Funding: \$450,000; Leveraged Funds: \$71,622
Program target: 9 curricula developed

Regis is providing a novel "hybrid" degree program in business and IT management with a focus on underrepresented students, and offering the degree and services in a bilingual format. One of the major findings of WIRED's 2007 business survey was a need for individuals who had both technical and business skills.

- **Sustaining Transformation Through STEM**

- **Thompson School District**

- WIRED Grant Funding: \$400,000; Leveraged Funds: \$369,593

- Program target: 283 educators trained; 10,000 students impacted

- Thompson School District will increase STEM course options and the number of underrepresented students successfully completing higher-level science and mathematics courses to increase the number of its graduates pursuing STEM careers through post-secondary certification programs, associate degrees, and four-year university/college degrees.

- **Innovative Partnership for Educating Colorado's Aerospace & Bioscience Workforce**

- **University of Denver**

- WIRED Grant Funding: \$450,000; Leveraged Funds: \$187,809

- Program target: 23 educators trained; 418 students trained

- The project combines teacher training, summer camp, and high school classes to develop engineering skills relevant to aerospace engineering and bioengineering. The Making of an Engineer summer camp (residential) uses the theme of Engineering in Extreme Sports to introduce participants to engineering concepts common to both aerospace engineering and bioengineering, such as material science and robotics.

Workforce Innovation Grant I

The WIRED Workforce Innovation Grant Program seeks to address specific industry needs by funding innovative workforce development, training, entrepreneurship, and other industry-specific education and training partnership projects. Specifically it focuses on employment or employee advancement in WIRED's four target industry clusters. In March 2008, nine projects were approved for funding in the first of two rounds of Workforce Innovation Grants for a total of around \$2.6 million.

- **Ensuring Oil Extraction for Adequate Energy**

- **Adams County Workforce and Business Center (ACWBC)**

- WIRED Grant Funding: \$157,498; Leveraged Funds: \$450,540

- Program target: 175 trained, 158 placed

- ACWBC's project will recruit and train 175 adults as equipment operators, drivers or materials handlers for energy companies through a partnership with Front Range Community College (FRCC), and the Center for Transportation Safety (CTS). This project provides an intensive introduction to working as a driver/heavy equipment operator to increase post-training retention of the participants.

- **Expert Technician Academy**

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! (ADW)

WIRED Grant Funding: \$483,412; Leveraged Funds: \$1,238,225

Program target: 275 trained, 238 placed

ADW, in collaboration with Arapahoe Community College, Douglas County School District and the Douglas County Educational Foundation will create the Expert Technician Academy (ETA) program to teach both youth and adult learners the technical skills required by the Aerospace, Energy, IT and Bioscience industries. The project will train 150 adults, 75 youth and 50 incumbent workers in certifications for the IT industry, including: A+, Net+, Oracle and Electronics.

- **Put Me On the Map**

Arts Street

WIRED Grant Funding: \$178,200; Leveraged Funds: \$185,585

Program target: 80 trained, 50 placed

The Put Me On the Map program is an IT training program for youth and young adults ages 16 to 24 in GIS mapping, digital animation, digital video production, interactive communication media, visual informatics and web site content development as well as developing entrepreneurial skills. Partners in this project are Emily Griffith Opportunity School College of Business & Technology, (an accredited Community College of the Denver Public Schools), Martin Luther King Early College, and the Boy Scouts UrbanYouth/Life Development Denver.

- **Multi-Industry Systems Technician**

Employment Services of Weld County

WIRED Grant Funding: \$334,768; Leveraged Funds: \$231,306

Program target: 120 trained, 102 placed

Weld County and its partners are providing a Multi-Industries Systems Technician (MIST) training and entry-level/mid-level employment program for youth and adults in partnership with Aims Community College. The project will provide an innovative job training program designed to remediate and develop skills needed for employment in the energy industry. Additionally, an intensive Prep-Academy will provide instruction for employer-identified professional skills, such as critical thinking, team work, and personal responsibility as well a remediation of foundational education skills necessary to successfully complete Aims Community College's entrance exam and Xcel Energy's pre-employment exams.

- **Energy Boost: Training for the Energy Industry**

Front Range Community College (FRCC)

WIRED Grant Funding: \$192,108; Leveraged Funds: \$74,388

Program target: 120 trained, 100 placed

FRCC's project, Energy Basic Training, provides training in Basic Math Skills, Understanding Basic Statistics and Measurements, Metrology, Reading Blueprints, Introduction to Process Technology, Working in Teams and Communication Skills in the Workplace. Curriculum design includes industry input from major energy companies such as Vestas, a manufacturer of wind turbines and towers. Vestas should

have an immediate need to fill about 600 jobs, and has agreed to interview program graduates and to continue to work with FRCC to strengthen the program.

- **Increasing the Energy Workforce Pipeline**
Goodwill Industries of Denver
WIRED Grant Funding: \$215,100; Leveraged Funds: \$216,755
Program target: 60 trained, 48 placed
Goodwill's project will provide paid apprenticeships or entry-level positions with energy businesses by August 2009. Students will be introduced to careers through mentoring, training, apprenticeships and will obtain jobs upon graduation. Goodwill's partners will play a key role in development and delivery of the program. Denver's Division of Workforce Development will participate in job fairs and connect students to JobLink, Red Rocks Community College will host an "Energy Career Summer Camp," and Denver Public Schools will provide dedicated class time for Goodwill's Energy Career class.
- **Building the Energy Efficiency Workforce for Colorado**
International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (iCAST)
WIRED Grant Funding: \$389,226; Leveraged Funds: \$171,257
Program target: 225 trained, 150 placed
iCAST will conduct Energy Efficiency Training for 250 unemployed, underemployed and incumbent workers referred by workforce centers in the WIRED region. Training will include energy auditing for residential, commercial and industrial buildings; solar PV and solar thermal installation; insulation and air sealing installation and other energy savings devices installation and HVAC installation. iCAST will create and post three online course modules in an energy efficiency curriculum, presented in partnership with The Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC) and E-Star Colorado.
- **Rays of Hope**
Turnabout, Inc.
WIRED Grant Funding: \$284,552; Leveraged Funds: \$44,591
Program target: 70 trained, 60 placed
Turnabout is a prisoner reentry agency that focuses on employment. This project provides training on "hard skills" such as Solar Panel Installation, Wind Power Installation and Equipment, OSHA certification, Industrial First Aid/C.P.R. certification, Commercial Drivers License (A and B) for the Energy sector. The program will provide 70 ex-offenders with energy industry job training. On-going support for participants will continue for at least six months after employment through mentoring meetings and sustained case manager/client contact.
- **Certificate Program in Database Services; Biosciences and Electro-mechanical Systems with an Aerospace Focus**
University of Denver (DU)
WIRED Grant Funding: \$405,000; Leveraged Funds: \$5,687,116
Program target: 100 trained, 75 placed

DU is training and placing 75 unemployed and underemployed participants into higher paying jobs in the IT, Aerospace and Bioscience industries. The project will identify unemployed and underemployed candidates who have relevant sector experience and/or interest which can be enhanced through the proposed training program. Minority candidates and military veterans will be key targeted populations. There will be three key training areas: (1) Mainframe Administration, an important niche area for Colorado; (2) Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) which are essential needs of the Bioscience industry; and (3) combined Mechanical & Electronics (“Mechatronics”), highly marketable skills in a variety of industries, especially Aerospace, Biosciences and advanced Energy Systems

Workforce Innovation Grant II

The goal behind Workforce Innovation Grant II is very similar to that of Workforce Innovation Grant I. The grants will provide job training and related activities to assist workers (both unemployed and employed) in gaining skills and competencies needed to obtain or upgrade employment positions in high growth industries and economic sectors. The grants encompass new processes, partnership structures, and ideas for training or other workforce or industry-specific career development and education programs. An announcement of the recipients of Workforce Innovation Grant II is expected in the fall of 2008.

- **Renewable Energy Course; PV (Photo Voltaic) Materials and Device Fabrication**
Adams County Workforce & Business Center (ACWBC)
WIRED Grant Funding: \$388,681; Leveraged Funds: \$87,941
Program target: 350 trained, 289 placed
The goal of this program is the development and delivery of a seven-week, computer based training program for assembly/production line workers, technicians, and technician assistants in the renewable energy industry. Division of corrections will make the training available to prisoners who will be released within 90 days. Ex-offenders who complete the program will be placed in four-year paid apprenticeships with industry partners upon completion of training. The Department of Corrections will continue to use the online curriculum after the grant.
- **Addressing Challenges of Colorado’s Advanced Manufacturing Workforce**
Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology (CAMT)
WIRED Grant Funding: \$284,493; Leveraged Funds: \$440,853
Program target: 200 trained; 190 will receive certificates/credentials
Industry-specific (aerospace, bioscience, energy) career development for the incumbent/displaced workforce with short-term, high-impact training via five certification programs in “Lean Basics,” “Lean Six Sigma,” “Quality Basics,” “Quality Technician,” and “Yellow Belt” training.
- **Building a Regional Training Center for Product Translation**

**CSU Product Development and Manufacturing Core (PDM Core),
Rocky Mountain Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging
Infectious Diseases (RMRCE), Department of Microbiology, immunology, and
Pathology**

WIRED Grant Funding: \$99,007; Leveraged Funds: \$56,400

Program target: 100 trained, 40 placed

Proposes offering three two-to-four hour certificate courses directly related to understanding the regulatory process. The first course will target undergraduates, grad students, incumbent workers, and academic faculty and will cover the general regulatory process including current Good Laboratory Practices (cGLP) and Good Manufacturing processes (GMP). The second course will target grad students, senior scientists, and industry counterparts. It will address topics such as pre-clinical and clinical trial design, toxicology, pharmacodynamics, and biostatistics. The third class will target the same audience as the second class but address topics such as final filtration, validation, and risk management.

A byproduct of the course offerings will be increased industry/academic interaction. The courses offered will ultimately become accredited certification courses and portions of their content (recorded videos) will become available online. The proposed offering is part of a larger plan for building a regional center for product translation.

- **Building Colorado's Talent Pipeline to Aerospace and Technology
Denver Public Schools**

WIRED Grant Funding: \$107,030; Leveraged Funds: \$118,911

Program target: 80 trained, 20 placed

This project will recruit, train, and funnel students to fill the employment needs of the aerospace and IT industries. Portions of the project are designed to encourage STEM education in the early HS grades. The project is centered on the FIRST Robotics program and competitions. In addition to training and placing participants, summer internships for teachers and students at Lockheed Martin are also included as part of the grant.

- **RAT – Research Animal Technology, Care and Management
Front Range Community College**

WIRED Grant Funding: \$259,260; Leveraged Funds: \$98,633

Program target: 120 trained, 42 placed

The project will train participants in Laboratory animal technology (for employment in animal research facilities). Participants will either complete exam preparation to take the American Association of Lab Animal Science (AALAS) certification exam (ALAT - Assistant Lab Animal Technician or LAT - Lab Animal Technician) or receive entry-level job skills training.

The entry-level training will provide job-specific animal technology skills and there is an associate degree program to obtain the formal education for future career advancement. The degree will transfer to a future new baccalaureate degree in CSU's

animal science department, resulting in the creation of a career ladder. The program becomes a 1+2+2 program when partnered with the high school animal technology program that is currently taught at FRCC. Industry partners will provide hands-on training opportunities via internships.

- **Clean Energy Manufacturing and GIS Technology Manufacturing
Poudre School District**

WIRED Grant Funding: \$115,186; Leveraged Funds: \$12,480

Program target: 50 trained, 30 placed

The project will develop and implement two state-of-the-art courses in Clean Energy Manufacturing and GIS Technology Industries for 50 high school students and develop workforce skills booster lessons for an estimated 120 students.

Of the 50 high school youth who will take two courses in Clean Energy Manufacturing and Information Technology Industries, thirty will either enter internship programs or entry level employment and 15 seniors will be placed in entry level employment.