



METRO DENVER WIRED INITIATIVE WORKFORCE INNOVATION (I) PROGRAM DETAILS

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, ten projects were approved for funding in the first of two rounds of Workforce Innovation Grants for a total of just over \$3 million. Grant awards for the second round of Workforce Innovation grants are expected to be made in June 2008.

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

Awarded: \$157,498

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.

- **Arapahoe/Douglas Works! (ADW)**

Awarded: \$483,412

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.

- **Arts Street's "Put Me On the Map"**

Awarded: \$178,200

Program target: 115 trained, 95 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.

- **Front Range Community College (FRCC)**

Awarded: \$192,108

Program target: 160 trained, 130 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. The company, which will have an immediate need to fill about 600 jobs, has agreed to interview program graduates and to continue to work with FRCC to strengthen the program.

- **International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (iCAST)**

Awarded: \$389,226

Program target: 250 trained, 170 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.

- **SpaceDev**

Awarded: \$ 432,081

Program target: 68 trained and placed

The Space Dev Center for Space Entrepreneurship program has three components: *Straight-to-Space* will provide high school graduates and dislocated workers with career and technical training for aerospace companies. *Super Co-Op* will engage University of Colorado's engineering students with study, paid industry experience and pathways to careers in aerospace. *Entrepreneurial Space Company Incubator* will place college students in internships with start-up companies to learn entrepreneurial skills.

- **Goodwill Industries of Denver**

Awarded: \$215,100

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.

- **Employment Services of Weld County**

Awarded: \$334,768

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.

- **Turnabout, Inc.**

Awarded: \$284,552

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.

- **University of Denver (DU)**

Awarded: \$405,000

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