Workforce Learning Summit Innovation or Best Practice

Vance-Granville Community College

The Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center and Manufacturing Skills Training Alliance Initiative (a partnership with VGCC manufacturing-related programs and local high schools career and technical education programs in coordination with area industries/manufacturers)

In order to retain current industries and to attract new industries in Vance, Granville, Franklin, and Warren counties, Vance-Granville Community College’s Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center trains workers who can operate, troubleshoot, and maintain today’s industrial equipment.

The Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center is made up of VGCC curriculum and continuing education programs and courses; preparing students for careers in manufacturing and related industries. Students receive training in fluid power, PLC troubleshooting, electrical power systems, mechanical drive systems, and industrial controls. These skills have been identified as essential to employers in the college’s service area.

In addition, the Manufacturing Skills Training Alliance, encompassing VGCC curriculum and continuing education programs and courses, and local high school Career and Technical Education programs, prepares students/area residents for careers in manufacturing and related industries. Alliance partners include Vance, Granville, Franklin, and Warren Counties’ Career and Technical Education high school programs and VGCC curriculum and continuing education manufacturing related programs.

DETAILS

Vance-Granville Community College and the local high schools’ career and technical education program administrators have desired to bridge the gap between employers needs’ and area training programs.

The problem to be solved is the need to provide comprehensive training programs for area residents that bring solutions to closing the skills gap and increasing the talent pool for advanced manufacturing and other high wage, technical employment opportunities in local markets.

The Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center with the Manufacturing Skills Training Alliance is a partnership dedicated to increasing the awareness of Advanced Manufacturing and the many viable career options within this important industry segment for our students. Our partnership is comprised of a network of local collaborators including VGCC, local high school CTE programs and many private and public sector partners, all committed to provide education and training leading to jobs and career advancement for our citizens. Each group is an integral part of the decision making process when it comes to the pursuit of a technical manufacturing career, whether as a new worker or an adult career changer.
Partners include:

- VGCC Director of Industry Services – Project Coordinator of the Manufacturing Skills Training Alliance Project

- VGCC Curriculum Program Heads and Faculty: Electrical Systems Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Mechatronics, and Welding Technologies

- VGCC Coordinator of Human Resource Development Program - Responsible for coordinating and implementing Manufacturing Skills Training Alliance employability skills courses and career services activities

- VGCC Grants Office and Endowment Fund

- Career and Technical Education Directors (Vance County Schools – Willa Clark, Granville County Schools – Stan Winborne, Franklin County Schools – Laureen Jones, and Warren County Schools – Ernie Connor)


Implementation began in August 2013.

Partner Type(s):
- Business/Industry (direct involvement)
- Economic Development
- Workforce Development Board/One-stop
- Public Schools
- Nonprofit organization(s)

Impact/Outcomes
The innovation is a new project and collaboration.

At this time, the NC Back-to-Work project at VGCC has had 22 course completers; with 16 students earning the full Certified Production Technician (CPT) credential. Additional project outcomes will become available as students complete curriculum programs and continuing education courses - and obtain jobs in local industries.

Funding Source(s)
Six Grants – Manufacturing and Related Job Skills:

- Back-to-Work ($120,000 and $147,000)
- Project Skill-UP ($20,000)
- TAACCCT DOL Grant ($1,757,299)
- Duke Energy Grant ($245,923)
- Golden LEAF Grant ($460,000)
- Governor’s Workforce Innovation Grant ($1,190,000) Awarded to Alliance through Granville County Schools

The project is ongoing; detailed grant activities are planned for five years, through June 30, 2019.

**REFLECTIONS**

**Innovation or Best Practice**
The Advanced Manufacturing Skills Center and Manufacturing Skills Training Alliance Initiative is a best practice because of the partnerships and projects that address a set of common goals and objectives. The partnership of VGCC curriculum and continuing education manufacturing related programs with Vance, Granville, Franklin, and Warren Counties’ High Schools Career and Technical Education Programs is innovative because of the number and scope of projects undertaken in the past 18 months. The goals and objectives of these projects encompass workforce development and training for students, as well as ongoing professional development for instructors and teachers.

**Lessons Learned**

- Partnerships fostered with curriculum and continuing education programs, employers, economic development commissions, workforce development boards are instrumental to the success of the project at all stages.
- VGCC recognizes its leadership role in the project and its responsibility to its students, constituents, and mission.
- It is important to ask for funding and community involvement for the project.
- Be strategic in planning; work to ensure a successful project for all involved.

**Scalability**
The project can be adapted to fit various locations and groups of educational entities that work together to meet employers’ needs.

**RESOURCES**

**Workforce Learning Summit Presenters**
Dr. Stelfanie Williams, President, Vance-Granville Community College
Dr. Angela Ballentine, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs, Vance-Granville Community College
Eddie Ferguson, Director of Endowment Fund, Vance-Granville Community College

**Video Link**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNffKKQqYM5

**For Further Information**
Suzanne Keil, Coordinator of Grants and Research
Vance-Granville Community College
Email: keils@vgcc.edu
Phone: 252.738.3344