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Rhodes State Receives U.S. Dept. of Labor Grant to Enhance its Manufacturing Pathway

LIMA, Ohio -- Rhodes State College received \$760,294 from the \$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 (TAACCCT) 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.

Rhodes State is one of twelve community colleges from around the nation to participate in the **TAACCCT Henry Ford Community College (HFCC) Consortium.** HFCC was awarded \$15 million and with their educational and industry partners will create high-tech job training opportunities for workers in the manufacturing sector.

In order to bridge the disconnect between the needs of the workplace and the content of manufacturing curriculum in most colleges, the Consortium will transform the face of manufacturing education in their institutions and establish a model for program transformation applicable to many industries. The program aims to use a competency-based model to develop new and modified industry-driven manufacturing curricula and credentials; transform instructional design and delivery systems to accelerate and contextualize learning; redesign student support, success and placement strategies to increase credential attainment.

With the dollars awarded, Rhodes State's focus is to enhance its existing West Central Ohio Manufacturing Consortium Pathway especially for incumbent workers currently employed by area manufacturers and create a new Industrial Maintenance Technology program. This

collaboration will support the transformation of manufacturing education by working collaboratively on issues of curriculum and on-line development and student success. The Ohio labor market estimates an annual growth rate of slightly over 8% for Industrial Maintenance and Advanced Manufacturing positions in West Central Ohio—approximately 380 jobs.

"We are preparing workers to remain competitive in a global economy. Rhodes State has continuously been on the cutting-edge of preparing workers with the skills necessary for the emerging high-tech jobs of the future," said Dr. Debra McCurdy, President of Rhodes State College.

The U.S. Department of Labor is implementing and administering the program in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education.

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