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Rhodes State College Receives a \$1 M U.S. Department of Labor Grant to Increase Training in the Tool & Die and Food Science Technology Industries

LIMA, Ohio- Rhodes State College has received a \$1M grant to increase industrial maintenance technology training in the tool & die and food science technology industries. Dr. Debra McCurdy, President of Rhodes State College, announced the award Monday.

The four-year grant, from the U.S. Department of Labor, was part of \$15M awarded to a consortium of 11 Ohio two-year colleges focused on providing additional training support for advanced manufacturing. The consortium will be led by Lorain County Community College.

“This was a significant opportunity for us to partner with other two-year institutions,” Dr. McCurdy said. “This is really a part of a vision for expanded collaboration coming from the college presidents working together.”

Dr. McCurdy added that the initiative supports Governor John Kasich’s vision for workforce development and “it really is all about skill development and how we can use our resources to provide a competitive edge for our trained workforce.”

The \$15M is part of \$450 M awarded today during the fourth round of grants from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training program. Including today’s announcement, about 700 colleges nationwide have received money since its inception.

Dr. Matthew Kinkley, Executive Director of Workforce and Economic Development and Continuing Education, said the grant will allow Rhodes to “help emerging workers and incumbent workers to take the next step in their skill development.” Rhodes will use the funds to hire full-time and part-time faculty and staff and purchase equipment for training for credit and non-credit courses. The goal is to create hands-on and work-based advanced manufacturing training programs and opportunities.

Within the past two years, Rhodes State has received more than \$2.6 M in grants for equipment and training initiatives in advanced manufacturing. Dr. McCurdy said in addition to working with our industry partners in advanced manufacturing, the College has been developing more initiatives in the culinary arts, food science and health sciences areas.

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