

U.S. Department of Labor

Sample Projects Evaluated by PEER

M-PATH: Advanced Manufacturing (\$2,499,902, 2014–2018)

The aim of this U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Initiative (TAACCCT) Round 4 grant program at Valencia College was to train displaced TAA-eligible individuals, incumbent workers, veterans, women, unemployed and dislocated workers through a career pathway model designed for individuals to gain access to short-term, high-quality training to earn nationally recognized credentials and hands-on experience required in today's manufacturing environment. Valencia College's "M-Path" initiative provides a path for students to obtain nationally recognized industry certifications, college credit certificates, and related degrees in key areas of need in Florida's manufacturing sector. Grant funds enabled the hiring of staff and faculty, purchasing of equipment and software, curriculum development, and design of Valencia College's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center.

- Principal Investigator: Beverlee Andrews, Valencia College Resource Development Office

Florida XCEL-IT: Information Technology Careers for Rural Areas (\$10,161,060, 2013–2017)

Seven community colleges in Florida partnered to create Florida XCEL-IT to address the needs of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) eligible workers. This U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Round 3 grant award addressed displaced workers typically unemployed or underemployed with long-term absence from the classroom and limited financial resources. To serve these individuals, the project aimed to provide education opportunities for careers in Information Technology (IT). The consortium colleges included the College of Central Florida, Eastern Florida State College, Florida SouthWestern State College, North Florida Community College, Palm Beach State College, St. Johns River State College, and South Florida State College. The project's objectives were to increase the long-term capacity of its colleges to reach and serve more TAA-eligible workers through (a) the addition of 17 academic programs of study; (b) refined career pathways from non-credit courses to a BAS degree in Information Technology (IT), cybersecurity, logistics, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship; (c) an online course in developmental education using new technologies; (d) an Employment Results Scorecard; and (e) tested techniques for reaching out to TAA-eligible workers and other adults in rural areas.

- Lead Institution: College of Central Florida