

FOR RELEASE  
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**OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AWARDS NEARLY \$500 MILLION IN FIRST  
ROUND OF GRANTS TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR JOB TRAINING  
AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

*Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis and Department of Education Undersecretary Martha Kanter, joined by Dr. Jill Biden, announce funds to help train workers for new careers and provide more job opportunities*

**WASHINGTON** -- The U.S. Department of Labor, together with the U.S. Department of Education, today announced nearly \$500 million in grants to community colleges around the country for targeted job training and workforce development to help economically dislocated workers who are changing careers. The grants support partnerships between community colleges and employers to develop programs that provide pathways to good jobs, including building instructional programs that meet specific industry needs.

This is the first installment in a \$2 billion, four-year investment and, when combined with President Obama's American Jobs Act that would provide additional support for hiring and reemployment services, is designed to increase opportunities for the unemployed.

"President Obama has made a priority of putting people back to work. He wants people to have access to real training that leads to real jobs. I am pleased to join Dr. Biden and Secretary Duncan in announcing these initial Community College and Career Training grants, which will provide targeted skills training in high-wage, high-skill occupations to individuals changing careers," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis.

Today's announcement represents the initial round of Community College and Career Training funds, and includes 32 grantees. The Department of Labor is implementing and administering the program while working closely with the Department of Education.

"The President knows that building a well-educated workforce is critical to reviving and strengthening the American economy," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "These grants will help community colleges and businesses to work together to give students the skills they need to compete for good jobs in growing industries."

Dr. Jill Biden, a community college professor, joined the Labor and Education Departments in celebrating the goals of the program, and the hard work of the grant applicants and recipients.

"The grants announced by the Departments of Labor and Education today are another clear demonstration of the Obama-Biden Administration's commitment to our community colleges and their vital role in fueling the American economy. Today's announcement is another step forward as we continue to build on the work of last year's White House Summit on Community Colleges, and one that will provide gateways to opportunities for many Americans."

The Community College and Career Training Initiative complements President Obama's broader agenda for every American to have at least one year of postsecondary education and will help to reach his goal for America to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. Every state will receive at least \$2.7 million for community college career training programs through this initiative. States without a winning submission named in this round are being contacted by the program's administrators to develop a qualifying initiative that will immediately receive \$2.7 million.

In addition to help equip workers with specific skill sets that employers say they are looking for, the grants will strengthen technology-enabled learning, and allow students and workers to access free learning materials online. Every community college grantee has at least one employer partner – a sponsor that has jobs available and needs workers trained to fill them. Through these grants, schools will be able to expand their capacity to put more people into high-quality jobs and start new careers in fields ranging from advanced manufacturing and transportation to health care and STEM.

The program also is designed to have a lasting impact on higher education, emphasizing the use of evidence in program design, collection of student outcome data, and evaluation to build knowledge about which strategies are most effective in placing graduates in jobs. These investments, combined with the President's proposals in the American Jobs Act, will help individuals to receive the skills they need to work in high-demand sectors and provide additional pathways back to work for the unemployed.

These grants are part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) initiative. The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act included a total of \$2 billion for this four-year initiative.