

## TRANSMITTAL # 11

### MEMORANDUM

May 8, 2012

**TO:** Workforce Development Council

**FROM:** Roger B. Madsen, Director

**SUBJECT:** Update on TAACCCT Grant programs/proposals

**ACTIONS REQUESTED:** Workforce Development Council support for new TAACCCT projects

#### BACKGROUND:

In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act amended the Trade Act of 1974 to authorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program. On March 30, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, which included \$2 billion over four years to fund the TAACCCT program.

TAACCCT provides community colleges and other eligible institutions of higher education with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less, are suited for workers who are eligible for training under the TAA for Workers program, and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations. Through these multi-year grants, the U.S. Department of Labor is helping to ensure that the nation's institutions of higher education are helping adults succeed in acquiring the skills, degrees, and credentials needed for high-wage, high-skill employment while also meeting the needs of employers for skilled workers. The training programs in these sectors can be completed in two years or less and result in a Technical Certificate and/or Associates Degree.

U.S. Department of Labor has awarded one round of funding and recently opened a second phase of funding to allow for new projects. Several community colleges around the state have submitted or will be submitting funding proposals to assist impacted workers throughout the state. The U.S. Department of Labor is implementing the TAACCCT program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education.

#### Projects:

College of Southern Idaho - The College of Southern Idaho applied for and received a \$2.7 million grant during the first round of funding for its *Idaho Ladder to Success Project* that includes following

consortia colleges: North Idaho College, Lewis-Clark State College, College of Technology at Idaho State University, Eastern Idaho Technical College, and College of Southern Idaho. This project is serving the entire state of Idaho through an optimum system for building and expanding programs that provide education, experience, and employment for TAA workers and other similar populations that meet the specific needs of Energy, Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare, Business and Information Technology sectors in each region. The project is focused on 1) Accelerating the progress for low-skilled and other workers, and 2) Strengthening online and technology-enabled learning.

Idaho State University's College of Technology - ISU College of Technology will be applying for up to \$15 million in the second round as a consortium with Washington's Centralia College's Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy. ISU will be the lead applicant and will combine resources with industry, community based organizations, Idaho National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Idaho and Washington Departments of Labor, educational partnerships and other state and local government agencies to provide stackable credentials, on-line courses, and regional classroom training opportunities that focus on the energy industry. This proposal demonstrates continued interconnections with Eastern Idaho Technology College that will help create jobs for the numerous unemployed or under employed workers. This is an excellent partnership and demonstrates the vision of industry clustering with surrounding states to create career pathways for high-wage, high skilled employment. Centralia and ISU are well known for their innovative curriculum development and industry partnerships.

North Idaho College – NIC will submit a proposal for \$3 million to target TAA eligible workers in meeting the workforce needs of Idaho's emerging Aerospace industry by creating an *Aerospace Center of Excellence in Aviation Maintenance and Advanced Manufacturing*. The project components will include credit and non-credit training, core curriculum in the areas of General Aviation, Airframe, Composites, and Non-Destructive Testing. The proposal also includes a provision to expand NIC's Machine Technology program. NIC has partnering with the Idaho Aerospace Alliance, a newly formed non-profit based in Hayden, Idaho and comprised of approximately eight employers serving the aerospace industry in Idaho. Lewis-Clark State College and the Idaho Department of Labor are additional key partners for this grant proposal. Economic impact projections for 2015 estimate that 1174 jobs will be created/impacted through this proposal, leading to a direct initial economic impact of over \$34 million through job creation, earnings changes, job retention and multiplier effects.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The Staff recommends that the council provide letters of support for each of the newly proposed TAACCCT projects presented by Idaho State University's College of Technology and North Idaho College. Because the second round of funding will award grants to both individual and consortia proposals, the council should be aware that there is no conflict in supporting both projects - Idaho State University will submit its application as the lead in a consortium effort while North Idaho College's application will be submitted as an individual application. As a result, these proposals will not be in competition with each other.

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