



**Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and  
Career Training Grants Program  
Draft Concept Paper**

*Revised 2/25/2011*

**Goal:** *Creation of an Industry, Labor and Education Action Group integrated with the strategic plan for economic development for the Commonwealth*

We are proposing to provide a Consortium Application to the U.S. DOL in response to this SGA. Quinsigamond Community College has been identified as the lead applicant and will be responsible for facilitating a collaborative process of writing the application and implementing the project. The major priorities of this project are to: increase the attainment of degrees, certificates and other industry recognized credentials and better prepare the targeted populations for high wage, high skill employment; accelerate progress for low skilled and other workers; improve retention and achievement rates to reduce time to completion; develop bridges from non-credit to credit certificate and degree programs; build programs that meet industry needs, including developing career pathways, and strengthen online and technology enabled learning.

Funding will be used to develop innovative, transformative programs, or replicate evidence based strategies throughout the Commonwealth.

The Consortium may consist of:

- Massachusetts Community Colleges
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Community Colleges
- Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
- Commonwealth Corporation
- Jobs for the Future
- Massachusetts Regional Economic Development Organizations
- Massachusetts Department of Labor & Workforce Development
- Workforce Investment Boards
- One Stop Career Centers
- Employers
- Labor Organizations / Apprenticeship Programs
- Community Based Organizations
- Industry Specific Groups such as: Mass. Clean Energy Council; Mass. Life Sciences Center; and Mass. Biotech Council

Based on information provided to the Community College Presidents Group by the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development, education and training will be in workforce areas that reflect the strategic economic development/recovery plan and



related investments of the Commonwealth. The major employment clusters for this project are envisioned to be:

- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Information Technology
- Health Care

Other Clusters as determined by each Region might include, but are not limited to:

- Clean Energy
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Financial Services and Entrepreneurship

The target populations for this project are TAA eligible adults, other unemployed adults, WIA eligible adults, and other low-income populations. We are proposing to develop Educational and Career Training Programs that can be completed in two years or less with a goal of preparing students for high wage, high skill jobs. Each region will need to define high growth, high wage jobs in their areas. The project design may incorporate the some or all of the following components:

### **Accelerated/ Contextualized Developmental Education**

Building on best practices, partners will develop, expand or enhance accelerated developmental education courses through “Boot Camp”, learning communities, emporium, modular curricula or similar modalities, including expanded use of on-line instruction in order to reduce the need for adult basic education or developmental coursework, and shorten the length of developmental education courses. For example, classes could be scheduled for 25-30 hours per week for 8-10 weeks, and/or could be contextualized on an individualized, cohort basis. The goal would be to effect consistency in the provision/delivery of these services/courses across the State.

### **Stackable Certificates**

Career pathways for students could be provided through a progression of certificates, entry level, intermediate and advanced, in one or more of the following occupational areas Health Care, Transportation, Manufacturing, Green Technologies, Life Sciences/Biotechnology, Information Technology, Entrepreneurship, etc. Students would be able to progress at their own rate through the progression based on competency attainment and individual goals.

Cohort based training program classes would be scheduled to facilitate student participation and retention. It is envisioned that students would be participate in class for 25-30 hour per week. Classes would also be scheduled in the evenings and on weekends based on local demand. Training programs may also include internships, paid on-the job training, and possibly apprenticeship opportunities.



**On-Line Learning Strategies**

In support of the above, open source, online education and training courses could be developed as stand-alone components, or in support of formal, classroom instruction and could build upon current services and best practices. Expanded on-line learning could allow students to progress through their program at a faster rate and access courses across geographic regions. On-line career exploration, college and career readiness courses could also be provided.

**Regional Training Centers**

These centers could provide faculty, staff and curriculum development services through virtual and center based workshops. Region specific, cohort training programs could be provided at each center based on labor market need.

**Support Services**

It will be critical to the success of this project that students have access to a high level support services to assist them while in education or training programs. Case Management, job placement and wrap around services could be provided through the One Stop Career Centers. Additional activities will include developing bridges from community based ABE programs to non-credit certificate and development education programs, and credit programs.

\* *It will be critical to incorporate best practices from across our campuses and Workforce Central in each of these areas into the project design.*

**Action Items**

- Continue meetings of working groups to address specific sections of the SGA:

Needs Assessment	Mondays at 10
Partnership Development	Fridays at 12
Project Design and Work Plan	Sub-groups at varied times
Evaluation and Outcomes	
Budget and Finance	
Proposal Review Process	
IT and Infrastructure	
Logistics	

For more information, or to be a partner on this opportunity, please contact Barry Metayer, Public Grants Director at [bmetayer@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:bmetayer@qcc.mass.edu) or 508-854-4528.