MJSP Funded Projects

March 3, 2025

# Partnership Grants

Grantee: Anoka-Ramsey Community College Award Amount: $399,844

Grantee Contact: Matthew Salo, 763-422-6116

Contributing Business(es): Philips Image Guided Therapy

Project Summary: Philips Image Guided Therapy Corp. (Philips IGT), located in Plymouth, manufactures image guided therapy and diagnostic devices (IGTD) that include software, smart devices, interventional imaging systems, and other medical services to treat peripheral vascular disease. The company also performs R&D for production of state-of-the-art medical devices and procedures. Philips IGT’s goal is to expand its manufacturing and R&D capacities due to rapid growth and demand for IGTD and related systems of medical therapies in the medical and healthcare industry. For expansion, the company needs a highly trained and skilled workforce, especially those involved in research, design, development, prototyping, and production. However, there is an acute shortage of skilled workers in the engineering and related fields. Philips IGT plans to create a Center of Excellence for Medical Technology and a Global Customer MedTech Training Center at their Plymouth facility and partner with Anoka Ramsey Community College (ARCC) to provide the infrastructure and curriculum needed to meet the current and future educational and skill training needs of its workforce. ARCC will develop and pilot a training curriculum of 16 courses totaling 248 hours of instruction tailored to train new engineering hires and to support current engineers designated for upskilling, cross-training, or refresher training. The course topics will cover beginning to advanced levels on requirements engineering, design controls, project management, resource management, decision-making, conflict resolution, technical and project communication, and vertical and enterprise communication. Most instruction will be classroom-based, and some courses will be made available on Philips IGT’s Learning Management System (LMS).

Grantee: Hennepin Technical College Award Amount: $116,969

Grantee Contact: Leslie Price, 612-432-0663

Contributing Business(es): Park Dental Partners

Project Summary: Park Dental Partners is the largest Minnesota-based provider of business and non-clinical support to general and multi-specialty dental practices, currently supporting more than 200 doctors across 89 locations in the upper Midwest. Pursuant to new state legislation, the Minnesota Dental Board approved licensing changes that will allow licensed dental assistants (LDAs) with at least one year of chairside experience to be trained to administer local anesthesia and obtain anesthesiology licensing. Cross training dental assistants in anesthesia administration will ease workloads, offer flexibility for dentists and dental hygienists, and help address critical staffing shortages while enhancing professional growth for dental assistants. Hennepin Technical College (HTC), in partnership with Park Dental, will develop an education and training program to prepare LDAs to safely and effectively administer local anesthesia under the direct supervision of a dentist. Training will be provided for 40 dental assistants licensed in Minnesota who have a minimum of one-year of chairside experience and a signed affidavit of sponsorship from a licensed dentist. The curriculum will be based on the standards of the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation, and the Minnesota Board of Dentistry requirements for anesthetic administration. Topics covered will include anatomy, pharmacology, injection techniques, and management of potential complications. The 45-hour training course will be delivered as 25 hours of hybrid learning, 15 hours of intensive clinical practice at HTC, and 5 hours of hands-on practice in a dental office. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion in Administration of Local Anesthesia. Trainees will be prepared to pass a board-approved local anesthetic exam, such as the CDCA-WREB-CITA exam, and apply for local anesthesia certification with the Minnesota Board of Dentistry.

Grantee: St. Cloud State University Award Amount: $326,630

Grantee Contact: Ileana Merten, 320-308-6160

Contributing Business(es): Veit

Project Summary: Veit specializes as a one-stop shop for delivering creative solutions in several key areas within the construction and waste management sectors, including demolition, earthwork, foundations, utilities, marine, industrial cleaning, cured-in-place piping, and waste management services. The company has active operations in over 23 states with focus on the Upper Midwest, including locations in Rogers, Duluth, Rochester, and Becker. A shortage of skilled workers for construction careers, coupled with vastly changing technology in the construction field, intensifies the need for Veit to create internal training programs and opportunities to grow their talent from within so that the company can continue to grow. Their primary goals are to develop emerging leaders, retain current employees, and up-skill team members to advanced positions. St. Cloud State University (SCSU), in partnership with Veit, will develop a streamlined, customized training program divided into three tracks: Workforce Development/Employee Engagement, which includes a 40-hour Emerging Leader Program, Technical and Operational Skills, which includes program management and estimator training, construction foreman training, and engineered construction optimization and design training, and Computer Skills, which includes software applications training. The employee’s work role will determine which trainings will be applicable.

# Short Form Grants

Grantee: Anoka-Ramsey Community College Award Amount: $49,454

Grantee Contact: Matthew Salo, 763-422-6116

Contributing Business(es): Asmodee North America

Project Summary: Asmodee North America (ANA) is an entertainment leader specializing in the publication, marketing, and distribution of board, card, and role-playing games for small game developers. ANA is headquartered in Roseville, MN, and conducts operations from its Roseville facility and a Lino Lakes distribution center. There are 138 employees located at Roseville and 151 employees at Lino Lakes. ANA has a dynamic and diverse workforce with nearly 50% of its employees from LGBTQ and other diverse communities. To sustain and further develop its dynamic and innovative workplace, ANA needs employees who can work cohesively within their groups and across departments to successfully implement strategic plans. ANA is partnering with Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC) to develop individual and team training programs that will foster the company’s ability to enhance its leadership structure and effectively implement strategic initiatives. The training, totaling 20 hours and conducted over a twelve-month period, will consist of five topical areas including Elements of Leadership, Individual Work Styles, Building Team Collaboration, Impactful Communication, and Building Rapport with Effective Listening. The trainees will come primarily from leadership, supervisory, and other management positions of four key operational teams: Publishing, Shared Services, Sales, and Operations. Training will be delivered through classroom instruction, and trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from ARCC for each course successfully completed.

Grantee: Anoka-Ramsey Community College Award Amount: $49,744

Grantee Contact: Matthew Salo, 763-422-6116

Contributing Business(es): Kurt Manufacturing

Project Summary: Kurt Manufacturing (KM) is a leading contract manufacturing provider specializing in die casting, impact extrusion, machining, manufacturing, and assembly of a wide range of close-tolerance metal parts and assemblies. KM has over 500 employees operating across six locations, including Minneapolis, Fridley, and Coon Rapids, and serves multiple industries, including semiconductor, aerospace, automotive, oil, and defense. Historically, turnover at KM primarily affected entry-level production workers, but there has been a notable increase in turnover amongst long-tenured, highly skilled, and professional workers in key areas such as machining, quality control, and engineering. To recruit and retain workers, KM is partnering with Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC) to provide training for both newly hired and existing machinists, quality inspectors, and engineers. Training will be provided in five topical areas, including Multi-Axis Milling & Turning, CNC Programing, Metrology, Engineering Quality, Metrosoft CMM3. The goals are to equip machine operators with operating and programming capabilities, quality control personnel with enhanced skills to determine higher product quality, and engineers with better utilization of design tools and software for more effective job performance. The training program is expected to aid in retention and maintain skill capacity in critical areas. Trainees will receive Certificates of Completion from ARCC for each course successfully completed.

Grantee: South Central College Award Amount: $49,865

Grantee Contact: Tanja Sigurdson, 507-382-1152

Contributing Business(es): Minnesota Soybean Processors

Project Summary: Minnesota Soybean Processors (MnSP) is a 2,350-membership cooperative that owns and operates a soybean crush facility and bio-diesel operation in Brewster, MN. They serve as a primary place of employment for the town and surrounding community and currently employ 90 workers. The MnSP processing plant uses the latest processing technologies for crushing, prepping and refining soybeans to produce soybean oil, bio-diesel fuel, and livestock feed. All these processes use industry specific technologies requiring a workforce skilled in methods, techniques, and industry standards of soybean processing. MnSP is partnering with South Central College (SCC) to develop a program that will deliver a baseline level of formalized training to prepare employees to work in a soybean processing plant. Advancing MnSP’s workforce skillset will result in improved plant operations, workforce cohesion, workplace environment, and job satisfaction. The training is being developed with expectation of continued use by MnSP after the grant period. There will be 54 hours of training covering five topic areas, including Process Safety Management, Workplace Hazards, Constructing Understandable Standard Operating Procedures, Methods of Maintaining Mechanical Integrity, and Communications Management. Training will be conducted on-site or online by SCC. Trainees will receive Certificates of Completion from SCC for each course successfully completed.