

MJSP Funded Projects

June 16, 2025

Partnership Grants

Grantee: Century College**Award Amount: \$73,501**

Grantee Contact: Eric Riedel, 651-444-2140

Contributing Business(es): DriSteem

Project Summary: DriSteem is a provider of humidification control, evaporative cooling, and water treatment solutions for commercial and industrial applications. Their products, manufactured at their Eden Prairie facility, meet the unique humidification requirements for critical indoor environments such as health care, manufacturing facilities, laboratories, and data centers. Century College, in partnership with DriSteem, will develop a Generative AI training program as a company-wide foundation for secure, practical, and strategic AI integration. Their in-person, hands-on program will be focused on real-world applications and DriSteem-specific priorities, directly aligning AI adoption with business goals. There will also be a strong emphasis on ethics and data security so that employees will be equipped to use AI responsibly and effectively, and to ensure DriSteem's proprietary information remains protected. The curriculum includes Foundations in AI; Custom GPTs and Third-Party Applications; Ethics, Security, and the Future of Generative AI; and Generative AI in Marketing, Sales, Operations, Finance, Engineering, HR, IT/Business Systems, and Technical Support. Training will be mandatory for all employees.

Grantee: Century College**Award Amount: \$281,951**

Grantee Contact: Eric Riedel, 651-444-2140

Contributing Business(es): Michael Foods

Project Summary: Michael Foods, headquartered in Hopkins, is a premier food processing and distribution company that leverages quality ingredients and innovative processes to offer high-quality, value-added food products to foodservice, retail, and hospitality industries. Its Minnesota product lines include value-added egg products and refrigerated potato products. The production of safe, high-quality products is critical for consumer health and maintaining the company's business integrity and profitability. Century College, in partnership with Michael Foods, will develop a comprehensive entry-level training program structured into three key components: Orientation, Onboarding, and Basic Food Safety. Through Orientation, new hires will be introduced to Michael Foods' mission, values, policies, and workplace expectations. Onboarding will include job-specific training in standard operating procedures, equipment usage, and safety protocols. Basic Food Safety courses will cover food safety principles, including hygiene, cross contamination prevention, allergen control, and regulatory compliance. The training will include e-learning modules, quizzes, and certification tracking which will be loaded into the company's Learning Management System (LMS) and be accessible from any Wi-Fi connected tablet or phone. The system will provide opportunity for just-in-time training, ensure consistent content delivery, and allow for tracking employee progress and credentials.

Grantee: Hennepin Technical College**Award Amount: \$332,675**

Grantee Contact: Rich Kelly, 763-488- 2728

Contributing Business(es): Arrow Finishing, Inc.

Project Summary: Arrow Finishing is a trusted provider of comprehensive surface finishing solutions for the medical, aerospace, and defense industries, with services including deflashing, deburring, surface finishing metals and plastics using polishing, texturizing, coatings, and numerous cleaning methods. The company currently has 128 employees

operating from a state-of-the-art, 130,000+ square foot facility in the Twin Cities. Hennepin Technical College (HTC), in partnership with Arrow Finishing, will develop and deliver a customized training and leadership development program which consists of two components: Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system functional training modules providing hands-on training on system functionalities tailored to specific job roles and leadership and change management training which includes Conflict Management, Change Management, Managing Change for Supervisors, Train the Trainer, Data-Driven Decision Making and Analytics, and Six Sigma – Green Belt certification.

Grantee: Hired

Award Amount: \$300,000

Grantee Contact: Andrea Peterson, 612-237-0362

Contributing Business(es): Seagate Technology, Medtronic

Project Summary: Seagate Technology LLC is a world leader in the design, manufacture, and distribution of data storage solutions, particularly hard disk drives. The company has a wafer manufacturing fabrication facility in Bloomington, MN which uses processes comparable to semiconductor manufacturing. Medtronic is a global leader in healthcare technologies and medical device manufacturing. The Medtronic Energy Component Center (MECC) in Brooklyn Center manufactures batteries and other components, such as capacitors, feedthroughs, and connectors, that are used throughout Medtronic's manufacturing lines. Both the global semiconductor industry (CHIPS) and medical technology industry (MedTech) are experiencing significant growth, but a shortage in skilled workers in both sectors makes it difficult for Medtronic and Seagate to expand production. According to research and practice, 90% of the technician skills in the two fields overlap, creating an opportunity for the development of a joint training program that will increase the number of skilled workers for both Seagate and Medtronic. Hired, in partnership with Seagate, Medtronic, and Century College, proposes to expand their Medical Manufacturing and Microelectronics Career Pathway as a joint-career training program to develop the skills of people who are un/underemployed for employment in high growth careers in MedTech and Semiconductor (CHIPS) manufacturing. The training program will be provided to 65 participants through seven 4-week cohorts and consist of four main training areas: Hired's Introduction to Medical Assembly and Semiconductor Careers, Century's Digital Skills, Production Quality and Cleanroom, and Medtronic and Seagate's new employee onboarding and orientation and on-the-job training. Training will be provided in the form of classroom instruction, skills labs, and on-the-job training.

Grantee: Minnesota State University, Mankato

Award Amount: \$297,023

Grantee Contact: Tammy Bohlke, 507-389-2572

Contributing Business(es): Lou-Rich Inc.

Project Summary: Lou-Rich Inc., a custom manufacturer headquartered in Albert Lea, provides precision machining, metal fabrication, assembling, and sourcing solutions to a variety of industries, including medical, food processing, agriculture, and transportation. Lou-Rich currently employs approximately 320 people and is one of the largest employers in the community. Lou-Rich will be partnering with Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) to develop and provide advanced or high-tech training on Computer Integrated Manufacturing. The training includes Six Sigma to be delivered to all management, covering quality control, statistical process charts, project management, and design of experiments so that they can learn to identify projects for automation and robotics. Robotic Welding, Machine Tending with Robots, and Automation will be delivered as hands-on training for shop floor employees who will use actual Lou-Rich products to design for automation and convert existing processes to robotic processes. Upon completion of these trainings, employees will receive a digital badge, or micro-credentials, and certificates of completion from the Center for Workforce Professional Education.

Grantee: Minnesota State University, Mankato

Award Amount: \$180,552

Grantee Contact: Tammy Bohlke, 507-389-2572

Contributing Business(es): Trystar

Project Summary: Trystar, based in Faribault, designs and manufactures a customized product line of power-distribution equipment, cables, and generator docking stations for multiple market segments, including data centers, utilities, construction, disaster response, and industrial applications. Trystar is partnering with Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) to develop and provide training focused on process improvement and redesign that will be delivered to all production employees, supervisors, and middle and upper management. Topics covered will include Poke Yoke, or error proofing, to make processes more efficient and streamlined, Standard Work to define and document best practices for tasks as a critical foundation for operational stability and quality, Waste Identification & Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), and Theory of Constraints (TOC) Training to identify and manage the bottlenecks that most impact production flow. Upon completion of these trainings, employees will receive a digital badge, or micro-credentials, and certificates of completion from the Center for Workforce Professional Education.

Grantee: South Central College

Award Amount: \$399,080

Grantee Contact: Tanja Sigurdson, 507-382-1152

Contributing Business(es): Christensen Farms

Project Summary: Christensen Farms, headquartered in Sleepy Eye, MN, is one of the largest family-owned pork producers in the U.S., with nearly 1,000 employees and 1,500 contract partners and operations across the Midwest, including Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and South Dakota. South Central College (SCC), in partnership with Christensen Farms, will develop a leadership and communications training program offering 288 hours of instruction delivered by Christensen Farms subject matter and third-party experts at the company headquarters and via Oracle LMS online modules. Training will cover five subject areas (Technical, Safety, ERP, Leadership, Communications) with a total of twelve courses, including Maintenance Technician Fundamentals, CMRT & CMRP Certification, Electrical Technician Fundamentals, Infrared Thermography, Intro to Feed Mill Operations, Ag Industry OSHA 10-Hour, NFPA 70E, Mobile Equipment Safety, Oracle Talent Management, Pork Production Business Acumen, Effective Managerial Communications, and Workplace Spanish. Trainees will receive SCC hourly-based Certificates of Completion upon completion of classes and certification from the Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals, OSHA, and the National Fire Protection Association for completing CMRT, CMRP, OSHA, and NFPA 70E.

Grantee: South Central College

Award Amount: \$350,000

Grantee Contact: Tanja Sigurdson, 507-382-1152

Contributing Business(es): Knobelsdorff Enterprises

Project Summary: Knobelsdorff Enterprises, with locations in Goodhue and Eagan, MN, is a comprehensive automation, electrical, engineering, renewable energy, and power services company delivering services for new facilities, process lines, automation and control systems, routine maintenance, and emergency repairs. Knobelsdorff will partner with South Central College (SCC) to develop an in-house apprenticeship training program consisting of 568 hours of training for entry-level workers to become certified electricians, construction craft laborers, heavy equipment operators, and electrical linemen. While all employees will receive a minimum of 12 hours of training, most training will be targeted to four apprenticeable occupations. Courses offered will include Introduction to Apprenticeships, Elements of Apprenticeships for Electricians, Electrical Linemen, Construction Craft Laborers, and Heavy Equipment Operators, NFPA 70E Refresher, VFD Master Training, Emerging Leaders Development, TWI & Train-the-Trainer, and Methods of Sales Improvement. Training will be delivered in instructor-led classrooms and SCC or LMS-based online instruction, resulting in hybrid apprenticeships. Upon completion of most courses, trainees will receive SCC hourly certificates, and those completing an apprenticeship will be certified in one of four occupations.

Grantee: South Central College**Award Amount: \$350,000**

Grantee Contact: Tanja Sigurdson, 507-382-1152

Contributing Business(es): Rolls-Royce Solutions America Inc.

Project Summary: Rolls-Royce Solutions America (RRSA), located in Mankato, is the North American subsidiary of the Rolls-Royce business unit Power Systems, responsible for the sales, service, and manufacturing of MTU Onsite Energy diesel and gas generators used in critical power applications, including data centers, hospitals, and power stations. RRSA is currently completing a 280,000 square foot expansion of its facility, including space for an R&D center focused on innovation, development, prototyping, and production. RRSA will be partnering with South Central College (SCC) to develop its workforce and coincide training with the implementation of their expansion plans. The training program will total 144 hours of instruction in seven topical areas, including Workforce Training, Safety Training, Logistics, Tech Training, ERP Training, and Performance Training. Twelve courses will be offered, including The Onboarding & Reboarding Process, HSE Safety, Safety DNA for Leadership, Logistics of Manufacturing, Developing a Reliable Supply Chain, Mastering the Tools of Manufacturing, Understanding Electrical Drawings, Intro to SAP, Mastering SAP, Production Metrics, Supply Chain Metrics, and Workplace Communications. All RRSA employees will participate in training, but not all classes will be offered to all employees. Training will be provided at Mankato primarily through on-site, in-person, instructor-led courses and through RRSA's AI-based learning system. Upon class completion, employees will receive SCC certification and RRSA or third-party certifications.

Short Form Grants**Grantee: Alexandria Technical & Community College****Award Amount: \$49,885**

Grantee Contact: Linda Muchow, 320-762-4539

Contributing Business(es): Ellingson Plumbing, Heating, A/C & Electrical

Project Summary: Ellingson Plumbing, Heating, A/C & Electrical offers residential, commercial, and industrial plumbing, HVAC, and electrical solutions to central Minnesota and beyond. The company currently has over 130 employees in its locations in Minnesota and North Dakota. As the industry's products and installation processes have changed to include more technically advanced methods, Ellingson sees value in providing employees with more advanced training in safety, software equipment, technical skills, soft skills and boiler training in a standard, customized training program. The company will partner with Alexandria Technical & Community College (ATCC) to develop customized curriculum, offering courses including StrengthsFinder, Crucial Conversations, OSHA-10, CPR/First Aid/AED, MS Excel, MS Teams/OneDrive/SharePoint, Safety and Use of Job Site Equipment, and Boiler Prep Training. This training will be offered to directors, foremen, project managers, warehouse associates, apprentices, sales staff, service tech, journeymen, and office personnel at their Minnesota locations. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from ATCC for each course successfully completed.

Grantee: Alexandria Technical & Community College**Award Amount: \$44,649**

Grantee Contact: Linda Muchow, 320-762-4539

Contributing Business(es): Winters Recreation LLC

Project Summary: Winters Recreation, located in Sauk Centre, is a dealership specializing in new and used golf carts and snowmobiles. They offer a diverse selection of golf carts, including gas, electric, and lithium options, alongside various models for customization. The company caters to a wide range of clients, from recreational golf enthusiasts to utility vehicle users. Due to a high rate of business growth, Winters Recreation needs a training program to sustain growth and maintain high standards of service and efficiency. The company is partnering with Alexandria Technical & Community College (ATCC) to develop in-house training that would provide employees with the ability to identify key business needs, improve workflow efficiencies, strengthen overall team collaboration, and build potential next level leaders. The MJSP Funded Projects - June 2025

training, totaling 62 hours and conducted over a three-month period, includes Inventory Management & Product Turnover, Training Within Industry and the Improvement Kata, and Train-the-Trainer. The in-person, highly interactive, and hands-on training will be delivered at Winters Recreation, and will include group activities and the use of realistic, job-related examples to practice key theories and techniques. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from ATCC for each course successfully completed.

Grantee: Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Award Amount: \$46,880

Grantee Contact: Matthew Salo, 763-422-6116

Contributing Business(es): BTM Global Consulting LLC

Project Summary: BTM Global Consulting is a minority-owned, woman-led technology consulting firm headquartered in Edina specializing in providing mid-sized to large retail, warehouse, and distribution companies with Oracle Retail, Agile, and NetSuite software solutions. BTM is known for its collaborative and client-centered approach, leveraging of deep technical software expertise, use of a global delivery model, and bilingual teams that provide agile, around-the-clock customer support. The company's leadership includes seasoned executives and mid-level managers who oversee multiple cross-functional projects in a constantly evolving business environment. Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC), in partnership with BTM, will develop and implement a leadership training program for their mid-level and emerging leaders. The training totaling 52 hours will include Leadership Skills Matrix, Merging Technical & Leadership Skills, Customer-Centric Skills, Technology & Systems Skills, and Understanding Organizational Leadership Systems. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from ARCC for each course successfully completed.

Grantee: Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Award Amount: \$49,969

Grantee Contact: Matthew Salo, 763-422-6116

Contributing Business(es): PE Services

Project Summary: PE Services, located in Eagan, is a trusted provider of civil engineering design and construction support services, specializing in design and plan preparation, plan specification review, construction oversight, and schedule management. PE wants to create a targeted leadership development program to enhance team capabilities and align employees with PE's strategic goals. PE will partner with Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC) to develop a program, totaling 58 hours to be delivered over a twelve-month period, that will cover five key subject areas, including Purpose Driven Leadership, Ownership & Accountability, Strategic Clarity, Systems Thinking, and Results Orientation. Training will focus primarily on leadership, supervisory, and management staff and will be conducted through classroom instruction which may incorporate a variety of learning formats. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from ARCC for each course successfully completed.

Grantee: Century College

Award Amount: \$38,855

Grantee Contact: Eric Riedel, 651-444-2140

Contributing Business(es): Genz-Ryan

Project Summary: Genz-Ryan, a family-owned and operated business headquartered in Burnsville, offers comprehensive home service solutions to customers throughout the Twin Cities metro area. Through MJSP funding in 2022, Genz-Ryan successfully established the Jack Ryan Academy as a division of Genz-Ryan to provide a training program for HVAC Technicians. Plumbing Technicians and Water Quality Technicians are two new training programs that Genz-Ryan wants to establish in the academy to expand their service offerings to homeowners. Genz-Ryan will partner with Century College to develop entry-level Plumbing Technician and Water Quality Technician programs that will offer hands-on learning and classroom instruction in areas such as pipefitting, blueprint reading, plumbing codes, safety procedures, plumbing systems installation and repair, customer service, and sales. Century will develop the curriculum and assist

Genz-Ryan's in-house instructor in the delivery of training for the first cohort. Trainees completing the 12-month program will receive journeyman credit.

Grantee: Minnesota State Community and Technical College

Award Amount: \$49,011

Grantee Contact: Amy Hochgraber, 218-846-3766

Contributing Business(es): CJK Group

Project Summary: CJK Group, located in Brainerd, MN, provides solutions and services to the publishing community that go beyond ink and paper. CJK's core business and product lines include printing services, content services and online hosting, marketing execution management, educational experiences, fulfillment and mailing services, and eBook and CD/DVD duplication, and solution and support services to original equipment manufacturers. As an industry leader committed to driving organizational success, CJK recognizes the need for a structured and comprehensive leadership development program to enhance its leadership capabilities and engage employees effectively to become a motivated, high-performing workforce. CJK will partner with Minnesota State Community and Technical College (MCTC) to develop a 52-hour Leadership Development Program for new, recently promoted leaders and existing employees participating in succession planning. The key components of the program include building leadership competencies, leading with emotional intelligence, using effective communication styles, managing time, managing conflict, building high-performance teams, and leading diverse work teams. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from MCTC upon successful completion of the program.

Grantee: Minnesota State University – Mankato

Award Amount: \$38,224

Grantee Contact: Tammy Bohlke, 507-389-2572

Contributing Business(es): Mankato Clinic

Project Summary: Mankato Clinic is one of Minnesota's largest physician-owned, multi-specialty regional group practices, with 150 physicians and 913 employees located across ten sites in five communities, including Mankato, North Mankato, St. Peter, Mapleton, and Lake Crystal. It ranks among the top 15 employers in the region. The Mankato Clinic wants to provide skills for leadership to effectively lead teams and plan, execute, and manage projects to achieve desired outcomes. Mankato Clinic is partnering with Minnesota State University - Mankato to develop a 20-hour on-the-job training course in Project Management incorporating foundational principles and practical applications. Real case studies provided by Mankato Clinic will be incorporated to provide trainees with hands-on experience with current, relevant projects. Upon completion, trainees will be qualified to take the Project Management exam through the Project Management Institute to earn certification.

Grantee: Minnesota State University – Mankato

Award Amount: \$40,202

Grantee Contact: Tammy Bohlke, 507-389-2572

Contributing Business(es): MRCI

Project Summary: MRCI is currently the 6th largest non-profit human services organization in Minnesota with over 204 employees and serves over 5,000 individuals in Southern Minnesota and the Twin Cities metro area. The organization is recognized as a leader in the field of disability services by providing community-based and person-centered employment programs that assist individuals in achieving their personal growth goals. MRCI wants to develop its staff's leadership skills to prepare them to respond to impacts from expected cuts in state and federal funding. MRCI will partner with Minnesota State University – Mankato (MSU) to develop and provide a training program on leadership, empathy-centered care, and board development. The training program, totaling 40 hours of training, will include an eight-part series on Leadership Development to enhance skills in strategic thinking, decision-making, and team management, a two-part series on Foundations of Effective Governance to strengthen board governance and strategic leadership capacity, and a workshop on Emotional Intelligence for all staff to enhance communication, reduce conflicts, and build

stronger, more collaborative teams. The training courses complement MSU's existing Nonprofit Leadership Certificate Program.

Grantee: South Central College

Award Amount: \$49,345

Grantee Contact: Tanja Sigurdson, 507-382-1152

Contributing Business(es): Conagra Brands

Project Summary: Conagra Brands is consumer-packaged goods holding company headquartered in Chicago that manufactures and distributes branded food products, including shelf-stable items, meals, entrees, frozen foods, sauces, and seafood for retail and food service. Conagra's North Mankato facility, with approximately 220 workers, manufactures BOOMCHICKAPOP, a ready-to-eat popcorn product. Conagra Brand's BOOMCHICKAPOP (CBB) plant uses industry-specific technologies requiring a workforce skilled in popcorn product processing methods, techniques, and industry standards and handling issues of safety and equipment maintenance. CBB wants to improve overall plant operations and essential worker skills in three critical occupational areas, including equipment operators, maintenance mechanics, and leads. The CBB plant will partner with South Central College (SCC) to develop a 12-month training program, totaling 64 hours, and covering five topical areas with courses including Understanding Electrical Systems, Maintaining Mechanical Systems, Understanding PLC Functions, Troubleshooting Production Operations, and Utilizing Computers & Software. Training will be conducted by on-site classroom instruction or online. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from SCC for each course successfully completed.