

ATTACHMENT “G-1”
(Career Pathways Concept Statement)

Region 12 Workforce Investment Board
Request for Action – Wind Energy and Renewable Energy Initiative

Subject: Resolution supporting the submission of a grant application focusing on training and job placement of individuals in Energy-related careers to the United States Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

Discussion: The DOL Employment and Training Administration is accepting applications for the Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries program funded through the Career Pathways Innovation Fund Grants Program.

Western Iowa Tech Community College would like to submit an application focusing on Wind Energy, Renewable Energy, Energy-Intensive and Energy Efficiency occupations to the competitive pool targeting High Growth and Emerging Industries. The College will launch two new programs of study: Solar Photovoltaic and Advanced Energy Systems Storage. The two new courses will augment training currently offered in Wind Energy and Renewable Energy – Biofuels.

Proposed projects must have linkages with WIA programs, local economic development strategies, and regional workforce talent development activities. Required partners are the local regional workforce investment boards, public workforce system, education and training providers, non-profit community organizations, and industry. Industry must be a vested partner in the project for both project management and participant placement.

The Department of Labor requires projects to develop comprehensive strategies and activities encompassing recruitment and assessment, adult basic skills upgrading and GED completion, postsecondary education and training, job placement, and supportive services. The target populations to be served by this grant are: unemployed workers, dislocated workers, and incumbent workers. New populations recently identified by the Department of Labor as populations of interest are disconnected older youth and unemployed veterans, including returning and retiring veterans. No individuals under age 17 may receive funding through this opportunity.

The scope of activities for this project are, but not limited to:

- Creation of a virtual toolbox that helps workers learn about and prepare for careers in the energy industry clusters..
- Recruitment and selection of participants for the project, with appropriate career planning, skills assessments, and basic skills upgrading to prepare for postsecondary training.
- Development of short-term training curriculum tied to industry portable certifications and delivered through web-based and mobile device delivery methods.
- Staff development on wind energy careers and green jobs (targets WIA, public workforce system, and social service agencies for improved career counseling, assessments, and training referrals).
- Post secondary training and education – must lead to a credential and industry-recognized certifications
- Short term training for “earn-while-you-learn” pathway development
- Career accounts and contract training to eligible participants.
- Mentoring and tutoring services, wrap-around supportive services, piloting needs related payments.
- Pilot industry/employer recruitment campaign focusing on the regional workforce as a competitive advantage.
- Job placement services and post-project follow-up