



**10/8/10**

### **ADTEC Receives \$2.3 Million Federal Workforce Grant**

The Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC), led by Arkansas Northeastern College (ANC), applied for a U.S. Department of Labor Education & Training Administration (DOLETA) grant as part of the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) initiative, which targets the counties and parishes of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). ADTEC was formed in 2005 as a collaboration of the five community colleges serving 14 counties in eastern Arkansas, as well as three counties in Missouri and one county each in Tennessee and Mississippi. On September 30, the DRA announced that ADTEC's project, Arkansas Delta Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities (ADWORC), is one of 18 projects funded by the \$29 million Federal initiative, with 8 of those in the DRA region. The purpose of the \$2,324,336 proposal, funded 100% by Federal dollars, is to increase the labor participation rate in the Arkansas Delta by preparing new entrants to the workforce, particularly persons from impoverished backgrounds and the formerly incarcerated, as well as dislocated workers for jobs in high-demand fields. Increasing the labor force participation rate in the ADWORC region will enlarge and augment the pipeline of skilled workers to build upon current economic growth through existing and future employers.

The ADTEC colleges are Arkansas State University Mid-South, West Memphis; East Arkansas Community College, Forrest City; Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, Helena; Arkansas State University-Newport, and Arkansas Northeastern College, Blytheville. ASU Mid-South's share of the grant funds is \$450,122 over the next three years, with all funds supporting the ADWORC initiative.

With ADWORC being specifically geared toward hard-to-reach populations, intensive case management resources will be implemented. The additional funding from the grant will allow each of the ADTEC colleges to hire additional personnel and establish a career placement pipeline, recruit heavily from the targeted populations, and deliver training developed in conjunction with employers. Each college will utilize the additional funds to provide much needed case management and career services to new entrants

to the workforce. Additionally, ADTEC will deliver workplace readiness training, offer industry credentialing opportunities, and provide work-based learning experiences through on-the-job verification (OJV) coaching. OJV involves the case manager or other personnel functioning as a liaison between the client/new employee and the employer to ensure that skills acquired through training are being properly applied during either a paid internship or initial employment opportunity. Generally, workplace readiness and industry-specific training at each of the colleges will be one semester or less, with work-based learning experiences varying from 90 to 120 days.

Arkansas counties served by the ADWORC project include Mississippi, Craighead, Greene, Poinsett, Jackson, Crittenden, Cross, Woodruff, White, St. Francis, Lee, Phillips, Monroe, and Arkansas. Arkansas counties are the primary service area; however, the location of ADTEC partner colleges creates the opportunity to serve eligible participants from counties in adjoining states. Missouri counties include Pemiscot, Dunklin, and New Madrid. Additionally, Shelby County in Tennessee and DeSoto County in Mississippi are included. All counties served by ADWORC are within the Delta Regional Authority territory.

### **About Arkansas State University Mid-South**

Arkansas State University Mid-South is a public two-year institution of higher education with an open-door admission policy, serving Crittenden County, Arkansas and the surrounding areas. The College is committed to *enriching lives through high quality educational programming that fosters student success, workforce development, and lifelong learning.*

For more information about ASU Mid-South, visit <https://www.asumidsouth.edu/>