

# **H-1B Technical Skills Training Projects Awarded To Connecticut's Workforce Investment Boards**

## **Overview**

The H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants were competitively awarded by the United States Department of Labor to provide education, training and job placement assistance related to high-growth fields in which employers are currently using the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program to hire foreign workers; such as advanced manufacturing, energy, health care and information technology. Grants are funded through fees paid by employers to bring foreign workers into the United States under the H-1B program. The grants are intended to raise the technical skill levels of Connecticut workers and, over time, help businesses reduce their need to use the H-1B program. *The grants were awarded competitively, and it is unique that all five of Connecticut's Workforce Investment Boards received grants.*

## **Investment**

A total of \$342 million was awarded nationally by USDOL and Connecticut's share of the grant dollars going to the Workforce Investment Boards totals \$19,856,170. In addition, resources were leveraged from the Boards and their partners totaling over \$10 million.

## **Target Industries**

The Workforce Investment Boards will lead projects that will train, place, and provide support to individuals seeking careers in health care, information technology, engineering, and advanced manufacturing industries.

## **Number Served**

The projects are generally four years in duration. Over the life of the grant, the state will serve a total of 1,172 individuals. Grants differ in target populations, ranging from long-term unemployed, veterans, incumbent workers, and older workers.

## **Partners**

All of the projects involve extensive collaborations. Major partners include the respective community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, industry/trade associations, employers, organized labor, community based organizations and economic development commissions.

