

Building a Quality Workforce: Targeted Industries HF829 – FY2008

1. Targeted Industries Internship Program

Purpose: Connect talented undergraduate students with existing and emerging biosciences, advanced manufacturing and information technology companies statewide. The program is for students at Iowa's private and public colleges, community colleges and universities. The goal is to provide the traditional internship experience in Iowa's targeted industries with an emphasis on small to mid-size companies.

- Iowa-based companies with fewer than 500 employees engaged in one of the targeted industries of biosciences, advanced manufacturing or information technology.
- Program funds are available for summer 2008 internships.
- Students must be within one to two years of graduation and enrolled in one of Iowa's community colleges, private colleges or the regent institutions.
- Awards are available up to \$3,100 for any single internship. A company can apply for a maximum of three internships or a maximum \$9,300 award per company.
- Companies must match the award with at least one dollar of non-state funding for every one dollar of state funding.
- An internship in one or more of the following areas: research and development; engineering; process management and production; product experimentation and analysis; product development; market research; business planning and administration.

2. Community College Equipment and Training Fund Application

Purpose: Provide financial assistance to support the purchase and/or licensing of equipment and software that is current and competitive for use in training programs and courses related to the targeted industries. One community college can apply or a consortium of community colleges can apply for projects to:

- Support new capabilities or new technology introductions that are beneficial to the targeted industries.
- Improve the use of technology to impact the competitiveness of the targeted industries.
- Ensure competitiveness by increasing the skills of youth and adults preparing for employment in or currently employed in the targeted industries.
- Demonstrate collaboration with community colleges, business partners, state agencies and/or industry associations.

3. Information Technology Training Program

Purpose: With the increasing difficulties in finding workers with the right skills, it is important for information technology firms to develop, retool, refine, and broaden the skills of their existing workers. The rapidly changing and evolving nature of the industry requires a more flexible response than is currently provided under traditional job training programs. The IT Training Program provides funds for IT firms in Iowa to upgrade the technical skills of existing high-level employees.

- Iowa-based companies or departments of Iowa companies engaged in the delivery of information services in the state. Employees fall into specific NAICS job classifications.
- Companies must match the award with at least two dollars of non-state funding for every one dollar of state funding.

4. Targeted Industries Student Competition Fund

Purpose: Program to provide financial assistance to support sponsorships of student competitions in the targeted industries to increase the knowledge of the targeted industries, the job opportunities in the targeted industries and engage student, educators and parents to explore careers in those industries.

- Showcase educational/career opportunities to students in the targeted industries area;
- Increase the number of students enrolled in targeted industries technical programs and majors
- Connect students with business mentors for future career planning, internship and employment opportunities.
- Encourage existing student competitions in the targeted industries to collaborate and implement a single high profile statewide student competition featuring several student events and highlighting student achievements and career applicability.
- Eligible applicants are businesses, industry groups, or academic competition sponsors of a student competition designed for the showcasing of career and educational opportunities
- Student competitions must have a statewide reach and include student to industry connections

5. Targeted Industries Career Awareness Fund

Purpose: Program provides financial assistance to support a statewide public awareness campaign(s) to educate students, parents and educators about career opportunities within the targeted industries.

- Showcase educational/career opportunities within the targeted industries
- Assist students, teachers and parents in the development of educational plans and curriculum development to take advantage of these opportunities.
- Applicants must be industry association groups in the targeted industries with efforts or initiatives for a statewide educational/public awareness campaign(s) to inform students, parents and educators about career opportunities within the targeted industries.
- Applicants must match funds of at least one dollar of non-state moneys for every two dollars received

6. Math and Science Education Improvement Grant Pilot

Purpose: Funds to the Department of Education to provide a grant to an area education agency for purposes of providing a regional and cooperative program for one or more of the following purposes:

- Teacher training, professional development, and teacher-in-residence programs in the areas of math and science.
- Supplemental math, science, engineering, and other technology-oriented educational opportunities for students, including opportunities for low-income, female, and minority students.
- Internships and workplace learning opportunities in the areas of math and science.
- Expansion and alignment of curriculum in the areas of math and science.

This summer a \$200,000 competitive grant from the Department of Education was awarded to the Grant Wood AEA to boost to a Corridor-wide initiative to improve teaching in science, technology, engineering and math.