



**US Department of Labor TAACCCT Grant  
Statewide Workforce Development Consortium  
Pending Decision  
Abstract**

1. **Applicant Name:** Great Falls College-Montana State University Lead Applicant
2. **Applicant City/State:** (Consortium: Grantee Institution city/state) Great Falls, Montana
3. **Consortium Members and Consortium Member State:**

Consortium Member	Location
Great Falls College Montana State University (Applicant & Project Lead)	Great Falls, Montana
Fort Peck Community College	Poplar, Montana
Montana State University Northern	Havre, Montana
City College Montana State University Billings	Billings, Montana
Gallatin College Montana State University	Bozeman, Montana
Missoula College University of Montana	Missoula, Montana
University of Montana – Bitterroot College Programs	Hamilton, Montana
University of Montana Helena – College of Technology	Helena, Montana
Highlands College of Montana Tech	Butte, Montana
Flathead Valley Community College	Kalispell, Montana
Dawson Community College	Glendive, Montana
Miles Community College	Miles City, Montana
Little Big Horn College	Crow Agency, Montana

4. **Areas Served by Grant (by city, county, and state):**
  - **State:** Montana. **Counties:** Cascade, Hill, Yellowstone, Gallatin, Missoula, Ravalli, Lewis and Clark, Silver Bow, Flathead Valley, Dawson, Custer, Big Horn **Cities:** Great Falls, Fort Peck, Havre, Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Hamilton, Helena, Butte, Kalispell, Glendive, Miles City, Crow Agency.
5. **Total Funding Level Requested: \$24,978,329**



**6. Sub-Total Requested by Consortium Member:**

Consortium Member	Funding Request
Great Falls College Montana State University (Applicant)	\$8,505,260
Fort Peck Community College	\$1,516,571
Montana State University Northern	\$1,746,864
City College Montana State University Billings	\$1,465,338
Gallatin College Montana State University	\$731,524
Missoula College University of Montana	\$1,388,658
University of Montana – Bitterroot College Programs	\$931,568
University of Montana Helena – College of Technology	\$2,687,563
Highlands College of Montana Tech	\$454,965
Flathead Valley Community College	\$3,466,107
Dawson Community College	\$562,587
Miles Community College	\$482,437
Little Big Horn College	\$1,038,887

**7. Project Name:** Strengthening Workforce Alignment in Montana's Manufacturing and Energy Industries (SWAMMEI)

**8. Project Description and List of Credentials to be Developed and Awarded:**

**Project Description**

A consortium of 13 Montana two-year colleges is seeking funding from the Department of Labor to develop a statewide approach to workforce challenges in advanced manufacturing and energy industries. These industries have been targeted due to the significant void between the state's present ability to appropriately train workers in these fields and the significantly growing need for workers in specific occupations that support these industries.

In eight target occupations, the Strengthening Workforce Alignment in Montana's Manufacturing and Energy Industries (SWAMMEI) project offers TAA-eligible, veteran and other low-skilled student populations an opportunity to access accelerated training anywhere in the state. Each SWAMMEI stacked credential uses a common delivery system to provide interactive, technology-enhanced and online curriculum. This approach creates significant efficiencies, wherein a single faculty facilitator can deliver online training to students across the state. Web-based curricula are reinforced with practical, hands-on training components



that students can complete in a consolidated period of time. Students will complete the hands-on portions of their training at Practical Assessment Centers conveniently located throughout the state, if their home college does not have the lab resources or faculty to conduct the necessary training. This systemic approach allows our two-year college system to serve dispersed TAA-eligible populations with accelerated training well aligned with industry needs and taught by our state's best faculty.

The SWAMMEI project also offers innovations to support the target populations' participation in the project. Workforce Navigators will assist students in: assessing current competencies; gaining access to education and workforce programs; applying for financial aid (including that available through the workforce system), and attaining workforce support services. Further, SWAMMEI will employ sophisticated evidence-based coaching strategies and professional coaches to help students overcome hurdles to success and increase completion rates of participants. Some well-known common stumbling blocks, such as developmental math, will also be transformed to accelerate time-to-completion.

**Credentials:** The Consortium will impact 9,389 individuals (3,419 "participants").

**Academic Certificates:** (aligned with NAM-endorsed industry-recognized credentials, where appropriate): Manufacturing Technician; Industrial Machining Level II, III; Welding Level I, II, III; Fabrication Level II, III; Industrial Maintenance Level II, III; Industrial Electronics Level II, III, IV; Diesel Technician Level I, II (AAS); Heavy Equipment Operators Certificate of Applied Science; Energy Technician Level I, II, III.

**Industry Recognized Credentials:** Safeland USA®, IACD Rig Pass®; OSHA, Commercial Driver's License; Canadian Welding Board endorsement, American Welding Society certifications.

**9. Populations to be Served:** TAA-eligible, veteran and other dislocated, unemployed, incumbent and low-skilled workers in need of basic and occupational skills.

**10. Targeted Industries:** Advanced Manufacturing and Energy Industries.

**11. Employer Partners:** 57 Employers from the region have made commitments that will aid in implementation of this project, including: Selway Corporation, Donaldson Bros, Oso Railworks, Inc., Specified Fittings, North Western Energy, Applied Materials, Defiance Machine, Inc., Raytheon, Nomad Global Comm., MC Squared Design, Synergy Aircraft, Timberline Tool Co., ADF Group, Autopilot, Hogin, Spectec, Noreen, S&S Machines, The Boeing Company, Apex Manufacturing Services, SeaCast, Inc., Blue Marble, Diversified Plastics, Inc., Watkins & Shepard Trucking, Spika Welding & Mfg, Inc., Bear Paw Lumber, Taisei Techno American, Inc., Stillwater Mining Company, ExxonMobil Billings Refinery, Ft. Peck Tech Services, Interstate Power Systems, Morrison-Maierle, Inc. Mitchell Oil Services, Montana Boilermakers IBB Local 11, Cloud Peak Energy, Muggli Construction, Custer Co, Road Dept. Doeden Construction, Oftedahl Construction, Big Sky Solar and Wind, Missoula Electric Cooperative, Zinc Air, Inc., Onsite Energy, Inc., Solar Plexus LLC., SBS Solar, Torgerson's LLC, Tractor & Equipment Co., Modern Machinery Co., Inc., RDO, Tilleman Moto Co., Inc., General Electric, Haliburton, Fort Peck Tribes Tribal Transportation Indian Roads Department, Small Business Development Center, and Montana Western Economic Development.

**12. Public Workforce System Partners:** Montana Department of Labor and Industry, MT State Workforce Investment Board, Montana Registered Apprenticeship Program, Montana Regional One-Stops (in Billings, Glendive, Kalispell, Helena, Libby, Miles City, Bozeman, Missoula, Sidney, Great Falls, Havre, Butte, and Hamilton).



**13. Other Key Partners:** Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education – Montana University System, Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development, Montana Chamber of Commerce, and Previous TAACCCT Grantees: ShaleNET Consortium (Penn College of Technology), TREND Consortium (Bismarck State College), Clackamas Community College, I-PAVES Consortium.

**14. Public Contact Information:** Dr. Susan J. Wolff, Great Falls College Montana State University, (406) 771-4310, susan.wolff@gfcmsu.edu

**15. Percentage of OER Program Materials Developed vs. Percentage of Licensed or Purchased Program Materials.** It is anticipated that 57% of academic program materials will be OER with the remainder being material licensed from industry vendors.

**16. Data Tags (up to 25)**

- Accelerated Learning
- Achievement Rates
- Assessment Technology
- Blended Learning
- Block scheduling
- Career Pathways
- Certificate Attainment
- Contextualized Learning
- Degree Attainment
- Developmental Education
- Employer Partnership
- Industry-Driven Competencies
- Enhanced Student Services
- Industry-Recognized Credentials
- Job Placement
- Online Teaching/Learning
- Real-time Online Interactions
- Retention
- Registered Apprenticeships
- Retention Strategies
- Simulations
- Skill Assessments
- Stackable Credentials
- Technology Enabled Learning
- Web-based Training