

## **Indian Hills Community College CCTC Program**

**Proposed recipient:**

Indian Hills Community College

**Recipient address:**

525 Grandview Avenue, Ottumwa IA 52501

**Requested amount:**

\$5,000,000

**Explanation of request:**

Iowa community colleges, in support of their high schools, seek Community Project Funding from Congress to help fund the hiring of College and Career Transition Counselors (CCTC). The CCTC initiative is needed to help young Iowans secure the training and education needed to be successful in careers, contribute to the economy, and help reverse the continuing trend toward severe shortage of workers with requisite training for skilled jobs.

The vast majority of jobs vacant or being created require some college education, training, or credentials that have value in the marketplace. However, fewer than half of all Iowans hold college credentials, including bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, certificates in technical fields, or industry-based credentials.

Two related problems have had a significant negative impact on economic success:

The percentage of high school graduates pursuing education or training beyond high school has declined for three years in a row – for the first time in history.

The demand for skilled workers to fuel economic expansion greatly exceeds the number of skilled adults available to fill open workforce positions in skilled jobs.

There is a huge mismatch in workforce development needs and adults with requisite education and skills. The need is for a more educated and prepared pipeline of persons interested in requisite training. Fortunately, Iowa's community colleges have the capacity and can expand quickly to deliver training in all high-demand fields.

College and Career Transitional Counselors (CCTC) will assist Iowa high school students in exploring college career options and preparing for careers with necessary training and education. CCTC counselors will spend time at high schools each week, providing students with information about various career options; helping shape their career exploration and studies; and providing guidance and assistance so that students identify career and educational goals and take the necessary steps to make a successful transition from high school to college and careers.

The CCTC model of shared positions between high schools and community colleges has demonstrated success on a limited scale at increasing the number of Iowa high school graduates pursuing and succeeding in education and training beyond high school. It is time to bring the CCTC model to greater scale.