The TAACCCT grant program was instituted by the Trade Act of 1974 to provide colleges and universities with necessary funds to improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs completed in two years or less. The target of the program is to produce a higher number of qualified individuals for high-wage, high-skill occupations. TAACCCT grants are awarded to colleges that are able to enroll eligible persons as stated in the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers program. The Department of Labor is implementing this program in partnership with the Department of Education.

TRAC-7 PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The project has brought seven institutions together as members of the TRAC-7 consortium to serve the training needs of the State of Kansas and beyond. The TRAC-7 project builds on the core curriculum for participants to complete their chosen program of study using a variety of technology enabled learning processes. These include online learning, real-time online interactions, and personalized instruction. Hands-on learning has been facilitated using mobile labs or residential short term courses.

Students are assessed into this continuum of competency based training and are able to access it at multiple entry points. Through extensive needs analysis and community outreach these programs are based on industry driven competencies. Successful participants earn industry recognized credentials to increase employer competitiveness when they attempt to enter the workforce.

RAPID RESPONSE IN ACTION: FINDING TAA ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS
Once it was announced that another plant, Hostess/Interstate Brands Corp., was closing in Emporia, Kansas, there was a serious need for action. Statewide, 330 employees were directly affected with this particular closing. In October 2013, workers filed a petition for TAA (Trade Adjustment Assistance) eligibility and it was approved.

Following the announcement, staff from Flint Hills Technical College (FHTC), part of the TRAC-7 Consortium, met with the Kansas TAA program manager, and their local workforce center in Emporia, Kansas, KANSASWORKS Emporia, to leverage expertise and resources for recruitment and enrollment of TAA-eligible individuals into the Power Plant Technology educational program.
Two events were attended by the workforce center and FHTC to attract TAA-eligible individuals to the Power Plant Technology educational program: a TAA ‘Fair’ at the Flinthills Mall in Emporia, March 25-29, 2013 and a TAA ‘Fiesta’ at FHTC on April 11, 2013.

For these TAA-eligible individuals, FHTC staff assisted potential students with completing paperwork, including positive and negative job search outcomes. TAA-eligible individuals met with the TAA coordinator at the local workforce center to complete and submit paperwork. The level of funding for the educational program was determined and awarded to 17 TAA-eligible students in TRAC-7 programs. The local workforce center continues to host a permanent booth for FHTC, and directs TAA-eligible individuals and other adults to the Power Plant Technology educational program at FHTC.

**TIPS FOR FINDING TAA ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS**

- Coordinate with the respective Workforce Centers’ Rapid Response management plans for TAA closings. TRAC-7 has had good success in obtaining TAA participants because of integrated strategic planning efforts when told a business will be closing down.
  - TRAC-7 staff stress the need for site coordinators to work closely with the workforce centers and TAA representatives to be aware and ready for Rapid Response.
  - Rapid Response is constantly discussed during monthly meetings with site coordinators as a result of the large number of participants it can attract to TRAC-7.
- Educate local TAA managers about the grant program to have them assist with recruitment efforts. You can capitalize on statewide meetings by providing program information to TAA staff in attendance.
- Establish partnerships with different TAA offices at the regional and management levels. Washburn maintains contact at the site coordinator level with regional representatives and at the management level with the state TAA coordinator.

**TRAC-7 AND KANVET COLLABORATION**

Project staff from TRAC-7 have established a collaborative partnership between the consortium and the governor’s statewide KanVet initiative. The collaboration has focused on information and recruitment as well as the development of a uniquely different Credit for Prior Learning database. KanVet is an initiative set forth by the governor’s office to support veterans and active duty soldiers.

TRAC-7 and KanVet are now co-branding materials for the program. They distribute a variety of information using print, video and audio materials to attract new participants and to raise program awareness. Credit for prior learning crosswalks are being developed from veterans’ MOS’ to TRAC-7 programs.

In addition, TRAC-7 has hired two ex-military personnel to serve as recruiters for outreach to veterans. The creation of this position allowed Trac-7 to reach a greater number of military personnel and provide a supportive pathway. KanVet’s Hire a Veteran pledge has also been used as a motivational force for attracting employers.