APPRENTICESHIPS: CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP

Welcome to the Apprenticeships: Closing the Skills Gap (CSG) Grants Connection!

This is the first edition of this CSG Connection newsletter, which is a quarterly technical assistance resource for CSG grantees. CSG grantees can expect to learn more about their fellow grantees, information about best practices, new resources, and news of interest in apprenticeship and workforce, as well as upcoming important dates.

Make sure to check out our **new Community of Practice (CoP)!** The CoP is designed to provide grantees with relevant information to support CSG programs. It is also a space to access prior events and grantee resources. Come see what's there!

In this issue of the CSG Connection you will find:
- Grantee Spotlight - Alamo Colleges District (Texas)
- Apprenticeships: CSG Program Office Announcements
- Technical Assistance Dates to Remember
- Performance Snapshot
- Apprenticeships: CSG Grantee Quick Links

Grantee Spotlight

Alamo Colleges District Makes Strides with Closing the Skills Gap Grant

The Alamo Colleges District has partnered with Methodist Healthcare for their patient care technician apprenticeship program through their U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Apprenticeships: Closing the Skills Gap grant. To date, Alamo has enrolled five cohorts of 53 apprentices into the

program with a sixth and seventh cohort set to launch September 13 and November 1, respectively.

Several media outlets have featured the Patient Care Technician Apprenticeship program at **Methodist** and also how the Alamo Colleges apprenticeship program helps launch health care **careers**.

Figure 1: Methodist Patient Care Tech Program

The Alamo Colleges' Healthcare Apprenticeship Partnership focuses on creating apprenticeships within nine healthcare occupations including: patient care technicians, certified nursing assistants, surgical technicians, pharmacy technicians, medical records technicians, medical billing and coding, medical assistants, community health workers, and radiology technicians.

To learn more about Alamo Colleges District apprenticeships visit: **www.alamo.edu/apprenticeships**.

Apprenticeships: CSG Program Office Announcements

WIOA Participant Information Records Layout (PIRL) for H-1B Grants
The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently approved the Employment and Training Administration's request to renew the Information Collection Request (ICR) for data collection using the Workforce Integrated Performance System (WIPS). As a result of this renewal, CSG grantees will be required to report against the **PIRL 2021 schema** for the reporting quarter ending September 30, 2021.

SA/CSG 2021 Amended PIRL Webinar
This webinar, held on August 25, 2021, provided information on updated performance reporting requirements to improve performance reporting for apprenticeship grantees. **The webinar** recording is available on the event registration site on Workforce GPS.

Performance Reporting Reminder
September 30, 2021 marks the end of the first quarter of year two in CSG grantees' period of performance. CSG grantees should have seen the Quarterly Performance Reporting (QPR) Guidance email in the first week of October. The email includes QPR tips and reminders and dates of the CSG grantees' Performance Reporting Office Hours.

Upcoming H-1B Performance Office Hours
As part of our technical assistance, grantees are invited to attend the upcoming Performance Reporting Office Hours. Three Outlook invitations with the link and call-in number for Microsoft Teams will be sent. We encourage you to please accept at least one of the upcoming Outlook invites scheduled for:
• Thursday, October 28, 2021 / 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST
• Thursday, November 4, 2021 / 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST
• Thursday, November 11, 2021 / 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST

We encourage grant program staff such as data entry and IT personnel, case managers, program managers, and directors of H-1B grant programs who are responsible for tracking participant records, creating grantee data files, uploading data files, and submitting quarterly progress reports to attend these calls.
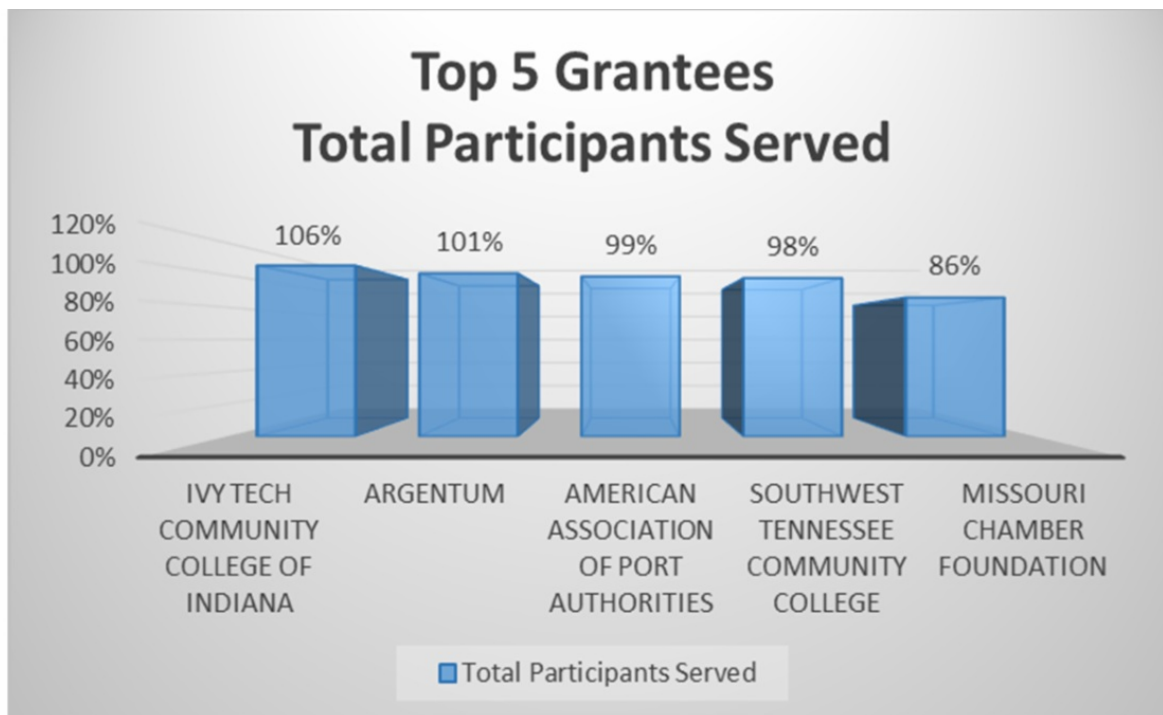
Credentials: What They Are, Where to Find Them, and What Counts for Performance

Credentials play a key role in workforce development. For employers, credentials can assist in identifying qualified workers, upskilling their current workforce, and competing in the marketplace. For job seekers, obtaining credentials can improve employability and lead to career advancement and higher wages.

This **webinar** discussed the characteristics of quality credentials and the types of relevant credentials available. Speakers highlighted resources and tools to use to determine what credentials may count towards grant performance outcomes.
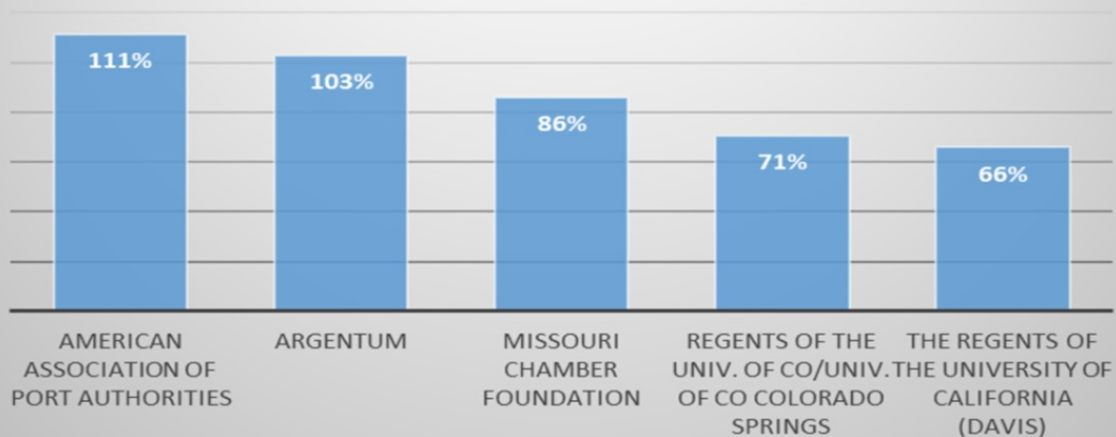
Apprenticeships: CSG Performance Snapshot

CSG grantees finished the first year of the grant during the quarter ending March 31, 2021. The graphs below represent performance outcomes for this first year. The targets are from the grantees' statement of work. The first two graphs showcase the Top 5 performers 'Total Participants Served' and 'Total Began Education/Job Training Activities.' The third graph is a representation of these same metrics in aggregate for all CSG grantees.
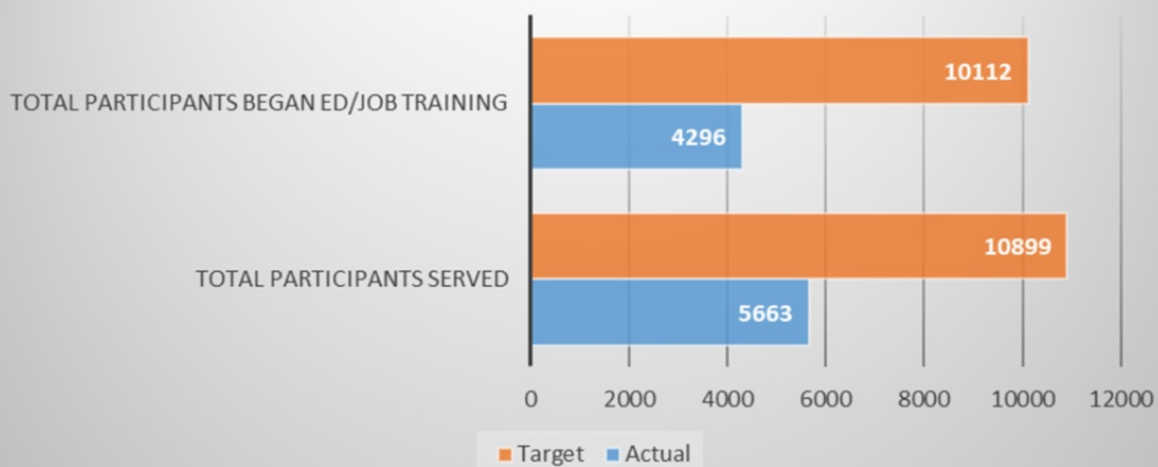

Top 5 Grantees Total Participants Served

Grantee	Percentage
IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF INDIANA	106%
ARGENTUM	101%
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PORT AUTHORITIES	99%
SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	98%
MISSOURI CHAMBER FOUNDATION	86%

■ Total Participants Served

Top 5 Grantees
Total Participants Began Education/Job Training Activities

- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PORT AUTHORITIES: 111%
- ARGENTUM: 103%
- MISSOURI CHAMBER FOUNDATION: 86%
- REGENTS OF THE UNIV. OF CO/UNIV. OF CO COLORADO SPRINGS: 71%
- THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (DAVIS): 66%

Closing the Skills Gap
Year 1 Performance Outcomes

- TOTAL PARTICIPANTS BEGAN ED/JOB TRAINING: Target 10112, Actual 4296
- TOTAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED: Target 10899, Actual 5663

Legend: Target, Actual

Dates to Remember

October 19 — Effective Mentoring Webinar

November 15 - 19 — National Apprenticeship Week

November 15 — QPRs and QNRs due to USDOL

November 18 — Challenges of Postsecondary Partnerships

November 30 — Lessons Learned from Apprenticeship Week

CSG Grantee Quick Links

Past Webinars
Advancing IT/Cybersecurity Apprenticeships
Employer Engagement Part One
Employer Engagement Part Two
SA/CSG 2021 Amended PIRL Webinar

Explore the one-stop site for apprenticeship information at **Apprenticeship.gov**

Apprenticeships: Closing the Skills Gap Grantees Policy **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** shares answers to questions about technical support provided to grantees.

Find all the reference materials you need for reporting on the **Performance Technical Assistance Resources** page on the Community of Practice.

Addressing the Digital Skills Gap
For more information on DOL's efforts to support digital skills and competencies, visit the **Competency Model Clearinghouse**. You can also check out their most recent event recording, "**Assessing and Developing the Soft Skills of Today's Workforce.**"

2021 State of the Workforce Report
The 2021 State of the Workforce Report from the National Association of Workforce Boards, focuses on how the workforce agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands responded to assist American workers through one of the worst economic downturns our country has experienced. See the full report as well as the individual state profiles **here.**

Provide content for future e-newsletters!

Do you have a featured news story, recommendations for items to feature, or other feedback? We're here to share and help! Reach out to your coach or let us know at **closingskillsgap@dol.gov**

You can find all CSG Connections **here**!