Overview
For the past four years, Florida State College at Jacksonville has led hundreds of individuals from the local community through a number of challenging and rewarding manufacturing and trades certificate trainings. Our America’s Promise grant program has been working extensively to provide those who are unemployed, underserved and underemployed with training and supportive services to enhance their educational and employment opportunities. Overall, the Grant has graduated 182 students with training and certifications in Six Sigma Green Belt, CNC Machining, hydraulics, pneumatics, electricity, welding, OSHA 30-Hour General Industry and Hazwoper 24 Site Disaster training. With STEM careers targeted as essential and well paying, the College has focused on providing our students with the most up-to-date training with essential hands-on experiences in an effort to best replicate real-world situations.

Program Highlight
We have made it our primary focus to provide every student with the educational and hands-on training that best fits their designed career paths into the manufacturing and trades industries. We provide real-world experience in our state-of-the-art training labs. Our programs are designed to include classroom presentation, interactive software and hands-on training. Working with our advisory committees has been essential to putting forth curriculum and experience-based training to best prepare our graduates for employment opportunities within the manufacturing and trades industries.

Regional Workforce Partnerships and Sector Strategies
Once the grant was awarded, our team immediately orchestrated a kickoff event and invited over 200 local manufacturers and trades companies to participate. With approximately 460 manufacturing and trades companies operating in our tri-county area, we have utilized our marketing department to assist in building a grant webpage and creating media awareness materials for our training programs. The grant along with our Engineering Department, built the Academic Advisory Committee for Manufacturing and personally met with and toured over 100 facilities while building partnerships with 82 companies that have hired our graduates.

Success Story and Impact
The NE Florida America’s Promise Grant has had a major impact on many of our graduates. One student came to us while employed at a local lumber yard making $10 per hour physically loading lumber into flatbed semi-trailers...
40 hours per week. Now he is living in North Carolina and has secured a job with QVC in their warehouse as a maintenance technician making $18 per hour with full benefits because of the training he received.

A deaf student enrolled and successfully graduated from our CNC Machinist program and OSHA 30/Hazwoper Boot Camp training. Upon graduation, he was able to secure an entry level position with Carlisle Interconnect Technologies as a maintenance operator. Carlisle has a deaf support group within their company to provide our student with communication assistance and on the job training. He was given $17 per hour and full benefits.

Over the last four years, we have partnered with 82 local companies by providing newly trained, skilled and certificated talent via the NE Florida America’s Promise Grant. Boeing Global Services has hired 6 of our manufacturing students and relocated them to Washington State and St. Louis, Missouri with full-time opportunities. Kaman Aerospace of Jacksonville, Florida has hired eight of our graduates with full time status and benefits. Finally, Special Tools Solutions, a local machining company, has hired 10 of our machining graduates to full-time positions starting at $16 per hour with benefits.

Our team has been a positive provider of support to our graduates and the local manufacturing community. Because of the partnerships we have developed over the last four years, we have been able to provide our partners with resumes in an effort to secure interviews and employment opportunities for our graduates. Finally, contracting with our local CareerSource workforce board to assist us in locating and tracking our graduates’ employment status has been immensely helpful. A beneficial partnership as we continue to gather employment data and support our graduates.

Northeast Florida America’s Promise Project

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