The Research Foundation for the State University of New York - Albany, NY

Award Amount: $7,999,226
Project Name: SUNY New York College Apprenticeship Network (NYCAN)
Projected Apprentices to Be Served: 3,500
Industry Focus: Advanced Manufacturing
Private Sector Partners include a business consortium of 58 employer partners, including Ford, Chobani, Unison/GE, All Seasons Ingredients, and Beech-Nut Nutrition.

Type(s) of Apprenticeship Program Proposed: Apprenticeship, Pre-Apprenticeship

The NYCAN project seeks to make apprenticeship the industry standard for training manufacturing workers anywhere in New York State through its development of a standardized online curriculum for pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships, which employers may then adapt to their local region's needs. To assist this effort, NYCAN is creating a statewide training network designed to help employers and community colleges form sustained partnerships. The project also features strong partnerships with the public workforce system, building on the experience of several partner Workforce Development Boards that have pioneered apprenticeship expansion throughout the state.

The project's flagship pre-apprenticeship program will be New York State's first online pre-apprenticeship program, which NYCAN designed to ensure that all apprentices have foundational competencies. NYCAN is offering this online curriculum through Open SUNY, the education system's online learning network, which allows the project to connect with potential apprentices statewide. The project also is deploying its vast corps of college professors in a "train-the-trainer" role to help manufacturers (particularly smaller employers) develop lesson plans, and to help technically competent staff cultivate effective teaching methods.

NYCAN will achieve national replication by building on the success that multi-state employers are currently experiencing in New York. Partner employers with manufacturing operations in the state have operations in 25 additional states; these employers will serve as the first wave of replication sites for NYCAN. In addition, New York has a thriving network of Manufacturing Extension Partner (MEP) partnerships through partner NYSTAR, which will serve as a link to adjacent states, facilitating the project's recruitment of additional employers to its apprenticeship model.

The IHE consortium consists of SUNY's 30 community colleges.