

Columbus State Community College – Columbus, OH

Award Amount: \$3,788,691

Project Name: Flexible Learning Expressway for Technology (FLEXTech) Apprenticeship Consortium

Projected Apprentices to Be Served: 1,600

Industry Focus: Information Technology

Private Sector Partners include a business consortium that includes Accenture, American Electric Power, Cisco Systems, DSW, Halcyon, Huntington Bancshares, JW Logistics, JP Morgan Chase, Nationwide, Ohio Health, State Auto, Redline Networks, and Le-Vel Brands.

Type(s) of Apprenticeship Program Proposed: Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program (IRAP), Pre-Apprenticeship, Other Apprenticeship

The Flexible Learning Expressway for Technology (FLEXTech) Apprenticeship Consortium seeks to create a national model for flexible apprenticeships in Information Technology and IT-related industries. The project is leveraging two prominent entities to create a combined Employer and Education Consortium charged with developing the new and expanded IT apprenticeship pathways: Columbus State Community College's (CSCC) Workforce Advisory Council, a group of national employers with IT talent needs, and Collin College's Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT), which co-leads the National Convergence Technology Center (NCTC).

FLEXTech offers two tracks. One is an emerging workforce apprenticeship track that has adapted CSCC's Modern Manufacturing Work Study model (currently funded by the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program) and combines college curriculum with part-time paid employment in a five-semester program. The other is an incumbent apprenticeship track that builds on the model, which CSCC has piloted with employer partner Nationwide, in the data analytics, cyber security, and software development fields. This model features on-demand, stackable, IT learning modules collaboratively developed with employer partners to reskill current technicians for the changing IT environment. FLEXTech's awarded credentials include CompTIA Security+, A+, Linux+ or Network+, CCNA Cisco Certification, AWS Cloud Fundamentals, VMWare, Google IT, and other validated credentials as appropriate.

Consortium partners are pursuing national scaling using a three-pronged strategy. First, the project's expansion partners are adopting and adapting the model, with Florida State College at Jacksonville serving as the initial expansion partner (outside of Ohio and Texas). Second, national employer consortium partners, such as Chase and Nationwide, which have operations throughout the country, are scaling existing incumbent programs to new regions in Iowa, Pennsylvania, and Arizona. Finally, the Collin-College-led NCTC is leveraging its national member network of 69 partner and mentored colleges to scale the FLEXTech project nationwide.

FLEXTech's IHE consortium member is Collin College (McKinney, TX)