

Trustees of Clark University – Worcester, MA

Award Amount: \$11,999,771

Project Name: Tech Quest Apprenticeship Expansion Consortium (TQ Consortium or Tech Quest)

Projected Apprentices to Be Served: 5,000

Industry Focus: Information Technology (IT) and IT-Related

Private Sector Partners include a business consortium consisting of such employers as Public Consulting Group, Inc., InfoTech, Mako USA, Altavian, Admiral, Antibiotic Adjuvant, and Tera Insights.

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

The Tech Quest Apprenticeship Expansion Consortium (TQ Consortium) seeks to significantly expand the availability of IT and IT-related industry apprenticeships within multiple occupations, and to expand IT and IT-related industry apprenticeship training to a national level within at least seven states (FL, MA, NV, MO, OR, PA, and TX). The project is providing training in 13 IT-related occupations—eight with existing RAP standards and five with new apprenticeship standards, which the project is working to register. The new occupations are Business Analyst, Business Intelligence, Data Science Analyst & Manager, User Support Specialist, General and Operations Managers. The current approved standards include IT Project Manager, E-Communications-Computer Systems Planning and Implementation, Public Health Information, Database Technician, Network Support Technician, IT Specialist, Computer Programmer, and Information Assurance Specialist.

To provide apprentices who face severe barriers with a more navigable path into high-skilled jobs and careers, the TQ Consortium is focusing its training design on the teaching of technology skills within a business context—that is, at the nexus of IT industries with business analytics, business intelligence and data science occupations within those IT industries. By combining “pure” IT training with concepts grounded in business, enterprise, and entrepreneurship, the project aims to help all apprentices (along with future independent contractors and other company staff) to better understand how business works and thereby gain the skills to become more adept employees.

The IHE consortium consists of Clark University (lead), University of Florida, University of California-Merced, Rancho Santiago Community College (CA), Santa Fe Community College (FL), and Florida Vocational Institute.