



2021 Advancing Workforce Development for Adult Learners Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board

The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) has earned the Advancing Workforce Development for Adult Learners Award in recognition of its collaboration and commitment to the career pathway model of preparing workers for jobs.

The workforce board sought to construct candidate pipelines for the region's primary in-demand industries of healthcare and manufacturing. Projects initially funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) and the Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) provided the means to develop the partnership infrastructure needed to produce skilled candidates for today's employers. These projects have involved employer-driven planning, basic skills and soft-skills boot camps provided by adult educators, jobs skills training provided by community colleges, and job placement activities provided by workforce development professionals.

The Health Careers Advancement Project (HCAP) funded by HPOG assesses students to determine academic readiness for the certification and training programs that are required for employment in the industry. Based on those assessments, students are enrolled in an industry specific bootcamp to strengthen academic and work-readiness skills. The bootcamp uses healthcare industry content to contextualize the math, communication, critical thinking, and digital literacy skills instruction.

Within the Manufacturing Pipeline initiative, students complete a Manufacturing Skills Inventory that determines their knowledge in areas of basic math & spatial reasoning as an example to help determine if they have the basic knowledge to complete industry tailored training to meet employer needs. Assistance with placement is also provided. For students who fall just under the eligibility cutoff, a remediation skills course is provided to boost their basic ruler reading, shop math, and spatial reasoning skills.

The EWIB works to identify the changing needs among employers and workers in its 41-town service delivery area and develops a strategic consensus among community leaders to align training programs to meet the needs of local employers in a manner that keeps Eastern Connecticut at the forefront of industry and technology.