



Metropolitan Community College
40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

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MCC awarded \$2.49 million federal grant to expand IT career training

OMAHA, Neb. — Metropolitan Community College was named a recipient of a \$2,491,960 grant to bolster information technology career training and pathways to high-demand IT and IT-enabled occupations. The funding is part of the final \$450 million of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training competitive grant program, co-administered by the U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Education.

The grant will fund Project PROTO, short for Providing Realistic On-ramps to Technology Occupations. Through strategic partnerships with area employers, the project will establish an IT career pathway that incorporates career training in both commercial and industrial IT industries, paving the way for the offerings central to the College's new Center for Advanced and Emerging Technology.

The project will also expand MCC's existing Fabrication Laboratory model and support the creation of cross-disciplinary programs in the emerging areas of prototype design and production, robotics and smart objects.

"As Omaha's tech scene continues to thrive, this grant is integral to our ability to leverage corporate partnerships and prepare workers to excel in IT, an industry that's growing two times the national average," said Tom Pensabene, executive director of MCC's Workforce Innovation Division.

Key business partners include the Nebraska Department of Labor, Heartland Workforce Solutions, Alvine Engineering, Kiewit Corporation, OPPD, White Lotus, Trane, TACKarchitects and the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. Over three years, the grant will help equip an estimated 500 dislocated workers and other training participants with new credentials for jobs in IT occupations as well as IT-enabled industries such as advanced manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, finance and government.

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 unique credit and noncredit students.