

1/23/2009 Moran Announces Barton County Community College to Receive \$2 Million Grant

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran announced today that the Department of Labor (DOL) awarded a \$2 million Community Based Job Training Grant (CBJTG) to Barton County Community College (BCCC). The grant will support BCCC's "Reach Out, Retrain, & Re-entry" program, which provides technical job-training for incarcerated youth and adults.

"Providing opportunities to inmates through correctional programs should be an important priority," Moran said. "Reach Out, Retrain, & Re-entry' gives inmates an opportunity to gain industry training and skills so that they can find employment and successfully contribute to the workforce."

"Economic development and industry training support in Kansas is crucial now more than ever," said Dr. Carl Heilman, Barton County Community College President. "The 'Reach Out, Retrain, & Re-entry,' will advance strong partnership among a host of public entities committed in promoting a skilled Kansas workforce. Barton is grateful for the longstanding commitment and support of Congressman Jerry Moran, who appreciates and understands the utility of this program's approach, its areas of emphasis and the far-reaching impact it has upon our state."

This week, the DOL announced CBJTGs to community colleges in 36 states. BCCC received \$2 million for the "Reach Out, Retrain, & Re-entry" program to educate and train inmates to help them to develop industry-defined skills. Training activities through the program include: 1) Plumbing, Welding or Manufacturing Skills Certification programs; 2) Kansas WorkReady! Certificate program; 3) Instructor training; and 4) wrap-around support services such as Life Skills, career exploration and academic counseling.

The "Reach Out, Retrain, & Re-entry" program is funded through CBJTG that promotes the U.S. workforce and strengthens the role of community colleges by preparing students for high-growth careers. CBJTG is a national model for demand-driven workforce development implemented by strategic partnerships between the workforce investment system, employers and community colleges and other training providers.

Since December 2007, there have been 27 program graduates from the "Reach Out, Retrain, & Re-entry" program.

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