

NEWS RELEASE

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Driggs, Madison County, College of Western Idaho and Community Action Partnership Receive \$25,000 Training Grants

Driggs, Madison County, College of Western Idaho and Community Action Partnership groups in Lewiston and St. Maries have all been awarded \$25,000 grants by the Idaho Department of Labor for local training programs.

The City of Driggs is partnering with Eastern Idaho Technical College, Silver Star Communications and the Teton Valley Library to offer classes in networking and advanced computer training. Approximately 30 training spots will be available for candidates who want jobs as network technicians, or in technical support, installation and repair. Wages are expected to pay \$15 - \$17 per hour.

A Madison County economic partnership says its members are putting up \$351,000 as an in-kind match for a \$25,000 Idaho Department of Labor grant and will create a training program where workers learn skills in additive manufacturing, introductory Programmable Logic Control and advanced food manufacturing. Program coordinators expect to train approximately 150 people who at the end of training could earn a starting hourly wage of \$15 an hour. Madison County Economic Partners include Rudd & Company, My 3D Creations, the City of Rexburg, BYU - Idaho, MEPI, Basic American Foods, Syphon Sound, Print Space, Elevation, BBSI and the Sugar Salem School District.

The College of Western Idaho, the West Ada School District and the Masonry Apprenticeship Council of Southwestern Idaho are putting up \$51,500 in match for a \$25,000 grant to develop apprenticeship opportunities for 56 students who are pre-registered in a masonry program for the 2015-16 school year. CWI will offer an adult class one night per week with a teacher visiting the student's job site twice a year to observe and assess student skills in each student's work environment. Starting jobs the masonry graduates are expected to fill pay \$12 - \$14 an hour, with an anticipated wage gain of \$6 - \$8 an hour more for masonry workers who are already employed.

The Community Action Partnership of Lewiston is receiving two \$25,000 grants - one for St. Maries and the other for Kamiah - to offer soft-skills training to entry-level workers. In St. Maries, in-kind match partners include the Presbyterian Church and the Valley Vista Assisted Living Facility. Kamiah in-kind partners include the Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises, Compassionate Care and IdahoStars. Combined, the community partnerships will offer the Bridges to Work training to a total of 40 entry level workers with the expectation of receiving wage increases over time as the trainees gain more experience and time on the job. Graduates of the Bridges to Work training program also receive college credit.

The \$500,000 micro-grant program, approved by the Idaho Workforce Development Council and funded through the Idaho Workforce Development Training Fund, provides up to \$25,000 per grant to local and rural communities for workforce development projects on a smaller scale than the traditional projects. Approved projects must increase employment and wages of a community's workforce or assist in stemming the out-migration of youth and young adult workers from Idaho communities.

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Grant applicants must provide 100 percent in-kind match for support.

A complete description of criteria can be found at <http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/idl/Businesses/TrainingResources/WorkforceDevelopmentTrainingFund/WDTFmicr ogrants.aspx>. Applications are reviewed and approved by a panel of representatives from business, education, economic development and the Idaho Department of Labor.

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