Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and Edward Under Secretary Martha Kanter announced nearly $500 million in grants to community colleges around the country for targeted training and workforce development to help economically dislocated workers who are changing careers. The grants support partnerships between community colleges and employers to develop programs that provide pathways to good jobs, including building instructional programs that meet specific industry needs.

Congratulations to the following NCATC member colleges on receiving funding:

**ARKANSAS**
- Arkansas State University – Beebe
  Beebe, AR
- Mid-South Community College
  West Memphis, AR
- NorthWest Arkansas Community College
  Bentonville, AR

**CALIFORNIA**
- Fresno City College
  Fresno, CA

**COLORADO**
- Colorado Mountain College
  Glenwood Springs, CO

**HAWAII**
- Honolulu Community College
  Honolulu, HI
- Maui Community College
  Kahului, HI

**ILLINOIS**
- College of Lake County, Grayslake, IL
- Moraine Valley Community College
  Palos Hills, IL

**INDIANA**
- Ivy Tech Community College - Terre Haute
  Terre Haute, IN

**KENTUCKY**
- Ashland Community & Technical College
  Ashland, KY

**FLORIDA**
- Florida State College at Jacksonville
  Jacksonville, FL

**NORTHLAND COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Northland Community & Technical College has been awarded a $4.7 million United States Department of Labor (DOL) grant. The grant is focused on developing an imagery analyst certificate program as part of Northland’s unmanned aerial systems (UAS) program. Upon receiving the news of the grant, Dr. Anne Temte, President of Northland, shared, “This grant expresses the national importance of the growing remotely piloted aircraft industry (RPA) and confirms Northland’s preeminence in developing and providing UAS maintenance training in this arena.”

Minnesota’s leadership is impressed by this grant as well. “I’m proud of the efforts of all those who have worked hard to create the UAS maintenance tech program, and now the Imagery Analysis program,” Congresswoman Collin Peterson said. “With the spinoff companies created by the UAS industry, Northland Community and Technical College is leading the way for students who will graduate with work in an industry that is growing rapidly and creating jobs.”

“Community colleges play a critical role in ensuring our country has a highly-skilled workforce ready for the jobs of tomorrow,” Senator Amy Klobuchar said. “Support like this will help ensure that all Minnesotans have access to the education and job training they need to succeed in a global economy, creating more opportunities in the unmanned aircraft systems industry and other growing fields.”

“Right now, too many Minnesotans are out of work while good-paying jobs across the state go unfilled because applicants lack the necessary skills,” said Senator Al Franken. “This funding will give more Minnesotans the training they need to succeed in those jobs now and in the future.”

Scott Fletcher, chief operating officer of Northland’s aviation programs, shared, “The unmanned aircraft industry is the fastest growing technology in aviation. The United States military now purchases more unmanned aircraft, and trains more pilots to fly RPAs, than traditionally manned aircraft.” He continued, “The civilian applications will be even larger in scope within a few years.” In 2010, the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) published the “Unmanned Aircraft System Integration into the United States National Airspace: An Assessment of the Impact of Job Creation in the U.S. Aerospace Industry.” In this document, AUVSI projected that between 2010 and 2025, more than 23,000 UAS jobs could be created, with more than $100 billion in revenue by the integration of unmanned aircraft into the national airspace. AUVSI describes itself as the world’s largest non-profit organization devoted exclusively to advancing the unmanned systems community.

With current military growth, and the future civilian potential, imagery analysts are a high-growth employment opportunity. Imagery analysts will facilitate the organization and dissemination of the information that unmanned aircraft vehicle (UAV) sensors gather. Currently this information...
Letter from NCATC President Jack Roach

From my personal experience, I can say that NCATC is a great organization. It is a great organization because it exists for the benefit of its members. It is also great because it is run by its members. Let me say it again, NCATC - For Its Members, By Its Members.

The greatest strength of NCATC has always been its network of over 150 member institutions across the country. In this day of budget cuts and doing more with less, we can all benefit by learning from each other. I have found that NCATC members have a willingness to share like no others. That new program that I need in South Carolina may already exist in Minnesota or Oregon. From the networking connections available at an NCATC Summer Workshop or Fall Conference, I can find out who already has something that can benefit my institution.

This opportunity for access to best practices from across the entire country is invaluable.

Another asset of NCATC is its Board of Directors. Your Board of Directors is not a ceremonial board. It is a working board composed of members just like you, people who are working in the trenches day to day, dealing with the same issues that all of you have. The board encourages you to use it as a resource, contact us with questions or problems you are dealing with. We will facilitate getting you connected to the right member with the answer you need. Your board is always looking for ways to help the membership. If there is something you think NCATC can do for you, let the board know about it.

NCATC has several member services and benefits, and we encourage you to take advantage of them. These include: technical consulting to develop or improve your Advanced Technology Center (ATC) through the Member Assistance Program (MAP), and external evaluation services for national grants. Many members have used these services, to great advantage for their institution. If you are planning a new ATC or are writing a grant, think about what NCATC can do for you.

As the country is struggling to put people back to work, the community and technical colleges are playing a vital role in retooling the workforce. NCATC members are leading the way, by providing the training programs needed to supply business and industry with the modern high-tech workers required to be globally competitive. Being flexible and responsive to the changing needs of the industries in their areas is a hallmark of our members.

On behalf of your Board of Directors, we encourage all our members to take full advantage of their NCATC membership, to make the task ahead a little less daunting.

NCATC - For Its Members, By Its Members

Gulf Coast State College Offers Mobile Laboratory Training Kits

As a partner with the Banner Center, Gulf Coast State College offers several innovative training kits that your organization may benefit from.

In an effort to meet the computer automation and robotics technology training needs of manufacturing employees nationwide, Gulf Coast State College is offering the Mobile Laboratory Training Kit, a flexible, cost-effective alternative to standard training methods. There's no need to send employees out of town for training because the Mobile Laboratory Training Kit comes to you. Each kit contains everything needed for a unique blend of hands-on training utilizing an online course delivery method. A Mobile Laboratoy Training Kit can be shipped directly to your workplace, providing state-of-the-art training for up to 15 of your employees. The kit remains at your office for up to 16 weeks and is easy to use. Simply open the kit, set up the laptop computer, connect to the Internet and you're in a college class! Employees can opt to take each course for non-credit training or for college credits leading to a certificate or A.A.S. degree.

This program can also be customized to meet your specific training needs. These cost-effective, onsite hands-on training kits are available in the following areas: Programmable Logic Controls, Motor and Motion Controls, Hydraulics & Pneumatics Controls, Process Controls & Instrumentation, Industrial Networking and Industrial Robotics.

For more information, contact Dean Eavey at 850/789-1551 ext. 4868.

NCATC Board of Directors

President
Jack Roach - Florence-Darlington Technical College - SiMT (SC)

President-Elect
Fred Haynes - Linn-Benton Community College (OR)

Immediate Past President
Debbie Davidson - Gateway Technical College (WI)

Treasurer
Sid Valentine - York Technical College (SC)

Secretary
Don Robison - St. Louis Community College (MO)

Member
John Calver - Thomas Nelson Community College (VA)

Member
Tom Crampton - Mott Community College (MI)

Member
Mel Cossette - Edmonds Community College (WA)

Member
Hope Cotner - Center for Occupational Research & Development (TX)

Member
Annette Parker - Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KY)

Member
James Retka - Northland Community & Technical College (MN)

Member
Gerald Sexton - Danville Community College (VA)

Member
Dorothy Walker - Milwaukee Area Technical College (WI)

AACC Board Liaison
Scott Murakami - Hawaii Community College System (HI)

Executive Director
Craig McAtee
Green Collar Jobs: Creating a Battery Training Program at Danville Community College

When LiFeBATT moved to Danville, VA, almost a year ago, they pledged to take part in the revitalization process of this community and to offer jobs to its local citizens. One thing that they realized, since creating LiFeBATT, was that there is no formal training program anywhere in the U.S. that really covers their particular industry, so they embarked on creating one tailored to their needs as an employer in this new green technology field.

LiFeBATT’s resident engineer, Dr. Don Gerhardt, put together the classroom lectures and plans for hands-on training stations that we took to Jerry Franklin and Mike Jones at the Regional Center for Advanced Technology and Training (RCATT), a unit of the Danville Community College system. After reviewing our plans, they began to implement this unique program.

The course includes information on the latest battery technology including battery electro-chemistry, manufacturing and applications. It also includes both classroom participation and laboratory exercises.

LiFeBATT provided RCATT a complete package for the hands-on portion of the course that includes training stations, lithium batteries, battery management electronics, chargers, battery test equipment and tools to build batteries.

Hands-on training is provided in the following areas:

- Battery overview, safety, history and theory
- Lithium batteries
- Battery cell charging
- Cell discharge testing
- Battery construction
- Battery electronic management systems and communication
- Electric vehicle applications
- Solar and other battery applications

Throughout the basic course, students will be able to build batteries, install electronic battery management circuit boards, charge batteries, conduct battery tests, and understand how to apply batteries for various applications. Students who complete the basic training will be able to move up to more advanced studies.

Special training batteries have been designed for the course that allow students to learn about different battery management systems. Lithium battery electronic management systems (BMS) are more complicated than systems for traditional lead acid batteries. The voltage of every cell is monitored. Microprocessor integrated circuits control the high voltage and low voltage solid state mosfet cutoff switches. The BMS also manages the charging to obtain optimum cell life that can be 10 times longer than the life for lead acid batteries. The information on each cell can be transmitted to a distant location for analysis.

The new lightweight and lower cost lithium batteries are generating opportunities in many fields including transportation, lighting, solar energy storage, medical, industrial, recreation, military, tools, lawn equipment and other industries.

Examples of the type of electric vehicles that can utilize this technology include:

- Electric cars
- Electric trucks
- Neighborhood electric vehicles
- Golf carts
- Utility vehicles
- Electric motorcycles
- Electric scooters
- Electric bikes
- Fork lift trucks
- Floor sweepers
- Aircraft tugs
- Electric tractors and mowers
- Electric construction equipment
- Electric boats
- Electric aircraft

Just in the past five years, over a dozen companies have developed personal light electric aircraft. A majority of the basic flight training will go to electric airplanes because of the savings in fuel and operating expenses.

There will be a surge in electric hybrid and plug-in cars as soon as the price of lithium batteries decreases. Many more industrial and consumer products will use lithium batteries. There will be an increased need for workers who can design, manufacture, test and service lithium batteries. The new battery training program offered by Danville Community College will prepare this region for such a surge.

The first class of twenty students will graduate at the end of the summer, just in time to interview for a battery assembly technician job that will be offered at LiFeBATT. They may not be able to hire everyone who takes this class, but it will be valuable experience for those who do pass the course and are interviewing with other green technology companies.

Additional information on the battery course is available at www.lifebatt.com.

Photo at right: Gerhardt tests E-Trike at DCC
Strategic Partners Spotlight

Industrial Distribution Companies May Not All Be Fortune 500 – But More Than 500 Fortunes Are To Be Made for Clever Job Seekers Over Next Few Years

Industrial distribution employs more than 3.3 million people across every state and province in the United States and Canada. These jobs offer interesting challenges, good pay and working conditions, and great career paths. In the next five years, 180,000 new jobs will be created each year in the field. Are colleges and technical schools delivering the content these job seekers will need to get hired?

Reports say there is a great shortage of skilled workers to fill jobs in industrial distribution. One of the reasons: unlike high tech, finance, or well known Fortune 500 companies, industrial distribution is a little known career path.

But, while jobs in the Fortune 500 are scarce, industrial distributors are hiring! Industrial Careers Pathway® (ICP) is working to provide curriculum to schools seeking to round out their course offerings and to make young adults seeking great jobs more aware of the industrial distribution career path. ICP is the brainchild of Power Transmission Distributors Association Foundation (PTDA Foundation), and nurtured by an alliance of business associations and foundations. Through ICP, this alliance is delivering relevant curriculum content to schools and connecting young adults with employers in the industrial distribution business.

The types of careers found inside any Fortune 500 are also found in industrial distribution companies. Industrial distribution jobs encompass a multitude of disciplines from the fields of sales (from entry level to highly technical), customer service, marketing, information technology, application engineering, sales and branch management, and ultimately, business ownership, and more. The industries served by industrial distribution cover every type of manufactured product from high tech aero-space to good old-fashioned paper.

ICP’s website, www.industrialcareerspathway.com features a wealth of information for educators, employers, and young adults. There are links to curriculum content and learning objectives developed by members of the industry that can be incorporated into any school program.

The site also includes a list of schools in the U.S. and Canada offering courses in industrial distribution. Once ready to be hired, job seekers can use the site to find employers in their area, according to zip code.

ICP is working hard to help schools deliver excellent curriculum and to connect qualified job seekers with employers. Visit www.industrialcareerspathway.com to learn more and subscribe to the semi-monthly ICP Talent Tipsheet, an e-newsletter that highlights hot content relevant to hiring young adults which helps keep readers on the cusp of the latest trends.

MSSC Launches New CPT-Green Module

October 18 in Dayton, Ohio, MSSC launched a new credentialing module dedicated to help train and assess the nation’s front-line manufacturing workforce against industry-defined national standards related to “green production.” Under GPM, workers and students will be able to secure an industry-recognized, nationally portable MSSC “Green Production” Certificate. This credential is applicable to “greening” all manufacturing sectors, not just those producing “green goods,” such as solar panels and wind turbines.

Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor, keynoted the event. She congratulated MSSC on developing this new module and the importance of MSSC’s industry-recognized credentials along a manufacturing career pathway of “stackable” credentials. Leaders from industry, education and labor all participated in this GPM Launch Event. In addition, 23 MSSC-authorized instructors received both GPM instructor training and took the GPM assessment on the margins of the launch event. MSSC is thus already building the infrastructure for GPM deployment.

“In developing GPM, we quickly discovered that ‘green production’ skills will be integral to all manufacturers interested in improving their sustainability performance,” said MSSC CEO Leo Reddy. “Front-line production workers who are GPM-certified will be a powerful force in helping manufacturers gain a competitive advantage in achieving their sustainability goals,” he added.

GPM will be a fifth module in the Certified Production Technician (CPT) program. Due to the emerging nature of green production, MSSC will not require individuals to obtain a CPT-Green certificate to obtain their full CPT certification. They will still be required to obtain all of the other four certificates (Safety; Quality Practices & Measurement; Manufacturing Processes & Procedures; and Maintenance Awareness) in order to obtain their full CPT status. More information can be found at http://www.msscus.com.
2011 Fall Conference: Hosted by
Chattanooga State Community College

2011 & 2012 NCATC Presidents, Debbie Davidson & Jack Roach present Dr. James Catanzaro, President of ChScc the NCATC Host Appreciation Award.

Dr. Catanzaro welcomes the NCATC crowd to Chattanooga.

NCATC Conference crowd prepares for one of the keynote speakers.

Gretchen Schultz (ToolingU) and Neil Reddy (MSSC) discuss NCATC Strategic Partnership roles.

Debbie Davidson thanks Scott Murakami for his years of service on the NCATC Board.

Don Robison (STLCC) and Jack Roach (FDTC/SiMT) enjoy a break before trying the Lincoln Virtual Welder.

Rob Stewart, President of The Quality Group poses with his right hand Carol Dierdorff.

Gina Moonfield (TCLI) catches up with Annette Parker (KCTCS) and Thomas Chandler (MTC).

Greg Kepner of Indian Hills CC visits with Rose Sumajit of PCATT in the OP-TEC booth.
Florence-Darlington Technical College Wins Federal Grants

Florence-Darlington Technical College was awarded three federal grants in Fall 2011. In September, FDTC was notified by the U.S. Department of Labor it would receive $19,984,039 to create the ASSIST to Work program. ASSIST will deliver academic and student support services that prepare TAA, unemployed, and incumbent workers for new and emerging technology-based jobs. FDTC is leading the grant’s consortium comprised of Carolina colleges, local workforce investment boards, the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, Clemson University, and 37 employer partners in a 29-county region. The two major components of ASSIST are: (1) the development of 37 new online contextual, science and technology-based courses supporting regional high-demand, industry-recognized certificates and degrees; and (2) the establishment of a Workforce Readiness Center on each campus. The centers will immerse ASSIST students in technology-based training and research-based services shown to build confidence and proficiencies that will make them extremely skilled and adaptable workers for new and emerging technology-based jobs.

In October, FDTC was awarded a $1.7 million U.S. Department of Education competitive grant for Predominantly Black Institutions. The Realizing and Inspiring Success through Education (RISE) grant is designed to strengthen and motivate African American students both personally and academically through: (1) the creation of a resource support and transition center providing targeted services for the improvement of educational outcomes in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) performance and health education; (2) the creation of a textbook lending library to increase retention and success in prerequisite and entry-level STEM courses; (3) an increase in STEM faculty and professional development; and (4) the establishment of a student incentive program.

FDTC is also a partner with Clemson University in a $2.4 million award announced recently by the National Science Foundation. The Center for Aviation and Automotive Technology Education using Virtual E-Schools (CA2VES) is housed at Clemson. Objectives of the project include: creation of a CA2VES Virtual E-School to support the delivery of automotive/aviation curriculum through virtual reality or similar high-level visualization/simulation tools; increasing access, recruitment and learning support for automotive and aviation students through the South Carolina-A2 Network; disseminating advanced technology E-learning modules for use by automotive and aviation technician education programs and industry partners; and advancing the long term sustainability of CA2VES. The Virtual Reality Center at FDTC’s Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT) will develop the virtual reality visualization elements of the E-learning modules. 

NCATC President’s Advocacy Council

Chair
Dr. Bryan Albrecht – Gateway Technical College (WI)

Members
Dr. Edward Berger – Hutchinson Community College (KS)
Dr. Keith Bird (emeritus) – KCTCS, Emeritus (KY)
Dr. Richard Hinckley – Center for Occupational Research & Development (TX)
Dr. Jeffrey Rafn – Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (WI)

Dr. B. Carlyle Ramsey – Danville Community College (VA)
Mr. Michael Rota – Honolulu Community College (HI)
Dr. Greg Rutherford – York Technical College (SC)
Dr. Perry Ward – Lawson State Community College (AL)
Dr. Marshall “Sonny” White – Midlands Technical College (SC)
Hawaii Colleges Receive Workforce Development Grant

The University of Hawaii’s Community Colleges will receive $24,653,118 to partner with local businesses on the development of workforce development programs designed to create jobs for the agriculture, energy and healthcare industries in Hawaii. Funding for the effort is provided by a grant from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) initiative.

"While American households are struggling to get by we must continue to educate our young people and provide them with a clear path to employment. By helping Hawaii’s community colleges partner with local businesses to develop programs that end with a job we are giving our young people a very real opportunity to succeed. I am very pleased that despite these difficult economic times the administration recognizes the need to invest in education," said Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

"Partnerships between community colleges and local employers provide our students with vital ‘classroom to career’ opportunities," said Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa. “These programs ensure our students receive the education and job training they need to secure quality jobs.” The grant will focus on adult basic education, remedial/developmental education and essential wrap-around services that will lead to improvements in retention in pathways leading to employer-based programs in healthcare, agriculture, and renewable energy.

"I am very pleased that despite these difficult economic times the administration recognizes the need to invest in education." – Senator Daniel K. Inouye

"These were economic initiatives identified by our governor in his ‘New Day Plan.’ They are also the clusters identified in our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies that will provide economic stability and growth for our state," said Scott Murekami, Director of Workforce Development for the University of Hawaii’s community college system.

Honolulu Community College is leading the consortium of colleges that also includes Hawaii Community College; Kapiolani Community College; Kauai Community College; Leeward Community College; University of Hawaii Maui College; and Windward Community College.

Participating business partners include Johnson Controls, Inc.; Pacific Biodiesel; Common Ground; Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.; Syngenta; BASF Plant Science and Hawaii BioEnergy; Hawaii Pacific Health; Garden Isle Healthcare; and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

Additional partners include the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; local workforce investment boards and one-stops; the State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative; county economic development boards; and a variety of industry and community organizations and non-profits.

Fall Grant Efforts Prove Fruitful for NorthWest Arkansas Community College

Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) was a part of more than $34 million worth of grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor in late September – money that will help students improve achievement rates and establish new high-tech course offerings. The awards were part of nearly $500 million worth of grants awarded to community colleges throughout the U.S. for targeted job training and workforce development to help economically dislocated workers.

NWACC will lead a consortium of 22 two-year colleges in Arkansas with a $14.7 million grant through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career and Training (TAACCCT) grant program.

“This is one of the most exciting and most beneficial days at NWACC in the eight years I’ve been president here,” Dr. Becky Paneitz, president of NWACC, said upon hearing the news about the grant. “Our students will benefit from programs specifically designed to break down barriers they may have toward receiving the degrees or training they need to perform jobs in our state’s largest career growth areas. This allows us to provide our students with opportunities to work in specialty areas where they are most likely to find jobs.”

NWACC will administer the “Path to Accelerated Completion and Employment” (PACE) program on behalf of a consortium of the 22 two-year colleges in Arkansas. The initiatives focus on improving retention and achievement rates and reducing time-to-completion by transforming developmental education, streamlining certificate and degree pathways, and enhancing student support technology and systems. NWACC will directly receive $3.8 million to administer the program and implement its portion, with the remainder being distributed to the other community colleges in the state.

"By redesigning classes and schedules to help working students balance jobs and college,” said Shane Broadway, Arkansas Department of Higher Education interim director, “we hope to significantly boost student success and dramatically increase the number of college graduates in the state. These dollars will enable our two-year colleges, employers and other economic development partners to create a workforce that is prepared for careers in high-wage, high-skills fields such as advanced manufacturing and health care.”

NWACC will also directly receive $1.2 million as a member of the National STEM Consortium, awarded $19.5 million by the Department of Labor through the TAACCCT program. The STEM consortium joins 10 leading community colleges in nine states to develop nationally portable, certificate-level programs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to build a national model of labor market-driven occupational programs.

Also announced in September was the funding of the “Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge: A Coordinated Initiative to Advance Regional Competitiveness” program in which NWACC, partnering with Winrock International and the University of Arkansas, received $3 million through several federal agencies. The grant will allow for high-potential, capital-efficient, IT-focused startups resulting in job creation. Of the $3 million awarded, NWACC will receive $1 million for job creation programs.
Welcome New Members

The NCATC Membership Committee is pleased to announce the addition of these new member organizations since the last newsletter was published.

Full Centers:
- Anoka Technical College (MN)
- East Mississippi Community College/CMTE (MS)
- Gadsden State Community College/CARCAM (AL)

Associate Members:
- McHenry County College (IL)
- Pierpont Community & Technical College (WV)
- Technical College of the Lowcountry (SC)

Strategic Partners:
- Rexroth-Bosch (IL)
- Sandvick-Coromant (NJ)
- Siemens Industry, Inc. (GA)

Full contact information, web site addresses, and email addresses for each member is located in the Members section of the NCATC web site. If you are interested in joining NCATC, membership applications are available on the NCATC web site, www.ncatc.org, under the “Member Benefit/Join” tab.

To contact NCATC, please call, email, fax or write us at:
National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers
33607 Seneca Drive
Cleveland, OH 44139-5578
Phone: 708-326-2509
FAX: 708-326-2511
ncatc1@gmail.com

Northland continued from page 1

Northland is focused on military and security logistics. However, in future civilian applications, information may be focused on agricultural, weather or other scientific functions. It is the imagery analyst’s responsibility to get the information to the right individuals in a timely manner to be used effectively.

The grant will fund curriculum development, personnel, equipment, supplies and other program development related expenses. James Retka, Northland’s dean of workforce & economic development and the aviation programs, worked with Fox Consulting in Minneapolis to submit the grant earlier in the year. James stated, “This is a fantastic opportunity for Northland to continue to expand its growing expertise in unmanned systems technology.” Retka went on to say “This Department of Labor-Trade Adjustment Act funding (DOL-TAA) will allow Northland to provide high-tech programming to a wider variety of students, including working more closely with our partners in adult basic education, Minnesota Workforce Center network, and Federal Workforce Investment Act programs.”

Northland previously received a $4.9 million DOL grant in 2010 to establish the nation’s first Unmanned Aerial Systems Maintenance Training Center. The very first UAS maintenance training class began in August 2011. Northland has operated a certified Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) aviation maintenance training (AMT) program for over 50 years. The AMT and UAS maintenance training programs, and the new imagery analyst program make up Northland Aerospace.

Northland is a comprehensive college with campuses in East Grand Forks, MN, and Thief River Falls, MN. One- and two-year degrees, transfer programs and diploma certification are available in a variety of majors, as well as workforce training and continuing education programs. Northland is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Visit Northland online at www.northlandcollege.edu.