



For Immediate Release

Central Virginia Community College Secures \$1.5 Million Grant for Workforce Training Expansion

Four-year grant will expand career pathways in mechatronics and nuclear technology, meeting local labor market needs and benefiting nearly 2,000 students over 48 months.

[January 20, 2025] Central Virginia Community College (CVCC), with support from the Community Funding Accelerator (CFA), is among 18 recipients of funding through the U.S. Department of Labor's fifth round of [Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants](#) (SCC). This \$1.5 million grant will enable CVCC to scale high-quality workforce training programs in mechatronics and nuclear technology, tailored to meet industry needs around Lynchburg, Virginia, and beyond.

This work aligns with CVCC's ultimate goal of preparing students, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, for well-paying jobs by creating clear pathways to earn industry-recognized credentials and opportunities for continued education and career advancement.

The SCC grant will support CVCC's Accelerate Advanced Manufacturing Pathways and Learning program (AAMPLify). With this funding, AAMPLify will directly impact nearly 2,000 high school and post-secondary students by expanding dual-enrollment opportunities and offering career-aligned pathways in mechatronics and nuclear technology. Through partnerships with regional employers (e.g., Delta Star, Framatome), students will gain access to internships, apprenticeships, and job placement services, ensuring workforce readiness and long-term career success in high quality jobs.

CFA supported CVCC as they developed their winning proposal by providing:

- Assistance with structuring and articulating a clear vision for the grant;
- Guidance on establishing K-12 education as the foundation for the college's strategies;
- Grant writing capacity; and
- Feedback on the draft application.



"This achievement belongs to the Community Funding Accelerator," said Dr. John Capps, president of CVCC. "We would never have received this award without the benefit of their guidance, expertise, and assistance. All of us at CVCC – and all of the students who will be the beneficiaries of your work—owe them a profound debt of gratitude for all they did to make this happen."

Now that they've won, CVCC will bring together key community partners – including Amherst County, Bedford County, Lynchburg City Schools, Delta Star, Framatome, BWXT, and Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium – to begin implementation in the Spring of 2025. Initial implementation will focus on hiring new faculty, upgrading equipment to be state-of-the-art, expanding student enrollment, and launching a student capstone project emphasizing work-based learning experiences.

"Our Strengthening Community Colleges grantees run programs that help lift whole communities, like by helping community colleges equip workers with the skills they need right now, while strengthening workforce infrastructure," said Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Julie Su in a [press release](#) earlier this month. "This is how we fundamentally shift workforce training programs to better invest in improving the lives of America's workers."

To learn more about this initiative and explore funding opportunities, visit the CFA website at communityfundingaccelerator.org.

About the Community Funding Accelerator

The Community Funding Accelerator (CFA) helps underserved communities access competitive federal grants. With a focus on K-12 education and workforce pathways, CFA identifies relevant grant opportunities, builds coalitions, and provides deep technical assistance to submit winning applications. CFA also supports implementation to create innovative education and workforce solutions in communities across the U.S. The CFA program is led by Delivery Associates, a public sector consulting firm.

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