

## **Metropolitan Community College Proposal *June 2012***

### **Investment Connection and the Community Development Investment Partnership**

#### **I. Organization Background Information**

• **Mission Statement:** The Metropolitan Community College (MCC) has a mission of providing affordable, quality education, connecting with the community, and powering workforce and economic development.

• **Overview of Organization:** Founded in 1915, MCC is a public two-year system of higher education, serving 12 urban, rural and suburban school districts in the Kansas City region. As the area's largest college, it is an exceptional value, offering opportunity to hundreds of thousands of individuals; tuition is one-third that of public four-year colleges. More than 32,000 students enroll annually on one of MCC's five campuses spanning a 50-mile radius around Kansas City. MCC employs a staff of approximately 2,000. MCC is a recognized leader of workforce development training throughout the region, providing customized worker training since 1980.

Through MCC's Institute for Workforce Innovation, employers have enlisted MCC's expertise to increase the productivity and skills of Kansas City's workforce. MCC's training and guidance can be customized to benefit employees from executives to front-line workers. In 2011, the Institute helped secure \$2.1 million for incumbent worker training through the Missouri Customized Training Program, benefiting 17 local companies. Through Missouri New Jobs Training and Job Retention Training programs, MCC helped 24 corporations access \$4.9 million which created 12,878 new jobs. Each year, the Institute:

- Trains more than 5,000 workers ranging from unskilled, unemployed, to incumbent retraining
- Contracts with over 100 companies to provide an array of contract training from soft skills to engineering; employers include Ford, GM, ATK, Hallmark, Harley-Davidson, Cerner and Honeywell FM&T

MCC responds to community needs, bringing education and training services to targeted areas. Recognized as a critical partner in attracting and retaining new businesses and contributing to a skilled, professional workforce, MCC was approached by the City of Liberty and the Liberty Economic Development Corporation as the entity uniquely suited to open the Liberty Science and Technology Training Center within a new development, the Science and Technology Park. The Center will be located in the existing Heartland Meadows Business Park.

A similar MCC effort in Belton created the Southland Training Center to meet a request from Honeywell for a technical training center easily accessible from their location. Honeywell FM&T has designated MCC as their exclusive training provider. Already providing more than 100,000 hours of training to 1,500 Honeywell employees, the recent opening of the Center will also offer general education courses as well as targeted training to meet the needs of other local employers. The Liberty Science and Technology Training Center in Liberty will be modeled after the successful Belton facility.

## II. Proposal Information

- **Proposal Title:** Science and Technology Park Education Center
- **Support Request (Loan, Investment/Grant, Service):** MCC requests a grant
- **Requested Amount:** \$220,000 is requested to support:
  - \$200,000 in tenant finishes (drywall, plumbing, electrical, flooring, and fixtures) 5,000 square feet @ \$40 per square foot
  - \$20,000 for general office and classroom furnishings

\$500,000 is the anticipated shell construction costs @\$100 per square foot. Construction will be partly financed through a partnership of private and public investment (100% tax abatement, no-cost land and reduced building permit fees). Several companies interested in locating to the Kansas City area have selected the Science and Technology Park as one of two locations meeting their criteria. They will select a site within the next few months.

- **Other Significant Contributions or Partners in Proposal:** A new Science and Technology Park will be located within the existing Heartland Meadows Business Park. The proposed Science and Technology Park development can accommodate construction and operations for between three and six diverse companies through a total 350,000 square feet of facility space. Expected tenants for the Science and Technology Park include Bioscience, Manufacturing, and Research companies anticipated to employ at least 425 workers.

MCC, the City of Liberty, and the Liberty Economic Development Corporation have a signed Memorandum of Understanding to develop the Education Center as a cornerstone of the development. Located in the Animal Health Corridor and bordered by agricultural, manufacturing and distribution industries, the Center is ideally situated to provide convenient training to targeted industries. Further, MCC is the model training provider with expertise in the areas of Life Science, Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, and Quality trainings; for 20 years, MCC has been an ISO Quality Management System provider and consultant. Additional services will include short-term training, non-credit courses, certificates in career skills areas, and other targeted services.

### • Proposal Narrative

**o Issues Addressed (small business development/microlending, community facilities, or affordable housing):** Upon occupancy of the Education Center, the college and its partners will definitively impact workforce development, offering education and customized training services. The presence of the Education Center will encourage current industry to remain in the area and attract new tenants to the Park, resulting in job retention and new workforce opportunities.

Projected job growth in the areas of science and technology require a skilled, trained workforce to meet employer needs. Multiple IT-related companies are forecasted to create numerous positions in the bi-state area between now and 2016. In 2011, Cerner hired over 700 individuals into computer systems analyst, system and software engineer roles; Cerner projects adding 1,000 in both 2012 and 2013. The Missouri Economic Research Information Center anticipates a 16 percent growth in employment of agricultural and food scientists by 2018.

A community facility dedicated to address workforce shortages, projected growth in science and technology jobs, and the need for specific training to existing employees is a benefit that reaches beyond Liberty, positively impacting the entire metropolitan area. In the first year of operation, MCC will pull

from a pool of 1,500 projected workers in the existing Business Park and new Science and Technology Park, offering customized incumbent and new worker training.

**o Geographic Impact:** The facility is within an Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) as determined by Missouri's Department of Economic Development, demonstrating high poverty and unemployment within the area. The facility will serve businesses throughout Clay County.

**o Population Served:** The targeted population for the training includes the 950 current Park workers plus the projected 425 new workers when the Science and Technology Park reaches full capacity.

MCC has expertise in serving diverse populations, educating and training recent high school grads, GED recipients, middle-aged recently displaced workers, and individuals representing all races and cultures. Programs to meet the needs of English as a Second Language individuals are available throughout MCC campuses; accommodations are provided for individuals with disabilities.

Clay County documents 88 percent of residents with a high school degree, 25 percent with a college degree. However, as the skills needed in high growth industries evolve, the workforce must continue education and training to meet employers' specific needs. In 2009, Liberty unemployment increased 33 percent. In 2010, the unemployment rate for the Liberty EEZ was 10 percent vs. unemployment rates of 8.4 percent for Clay County; and 9.1 percent for Missouri.

**o Income (80% or below AMI):** Ten percent of Clay County lives below the federal poverty level; a 124 percent increase between 2000 and 2012. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Clay County's AMI is \$72,300. Eighty percent totals \$57,840; 45,480 households in Clay County fall below that income level, roughly 52 percent of all households.

**o Anticipated Outcomes/Impact:** The Center will drive economic development. As the Park expands, an on-site training facility will help attract new tenants, resulting in an increase of area jobs. As existing tenants utilize the Education Center, access to convenient training will encourage businesses to remain in the area and increase job retention. MCC anticipates achieving the following outcomes, all positively impacting area business and employees:

- 50 percent of Park employers utilizing the Center for new employee and incumbent worker training by end of the second year of operation
- 25 customized trainings developed between MCC and employers during the first year
- 50 percent trainees will report job retention and/or an increase of salary or hourly wage

**o Evaluation Methods:** An analysis of progress, using detailed benchmarks related to the build, will be reviewed by partners at least monthly. The grand opening will mark the completion milestone. At the end of the first full year of operation, outcome indicators including employers utilizing the Center for continuing staff training, training courses available, and data pertaining to job retention and/or salary rates pre and post training, will be collected and analyzed. MCC's Department of Institutional Research and Assessment will be charged with data collection and evaluation.

**III. Copy of most recent year end audited or reviewed financial:** Attached.