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Ohio Colleges and Universities Receive Grant for Developing Alternative Approaches to Meet Workforce Needs

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The Ohio Learning Network has awarded \$66,790.75 to 7 Ohio colleges and universities to develop programs delivered in nontraditional ways to meet the needs of Ohio's workforce. This innovative pilot project is designed to address the educational needs of adult workers and reduce the time from enrollment at the college or university to completion of a certificate or degree program.

The project will convert existing online courses and degrees into certificates and degrees that will lead to career development or job placement. This collaboration will allow workers to receive high-quality certificates and degrees locally and will provide local businesses and industries with a larger, better-educated workforce. A well-educated workforce can provide positive contributions to local economic development.

Grants were awarded to:

- The University of Akron to create a 2+2 degree completion program using distance learning technologies in Postsecondary Technical Education (\$8,500)
- Kent State University-Ashtabula to address the nursing shortage through LPN transition (\$9,790.75)
- Lorain County Community College for a statewide collaboration to allow for a multi-exit pathway in Fire Science (\$10,000)
- The Ohio State University for workforce degrees and certifications delivered at a distance: Policies, Technologies, Practices (\$10,000)

- Sinclair Community College for online Level I Certification for Procurement, Acquisition, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management (\$10,000)
- Youngstown State University for the planning of a new delivery model for Workforce Development in Health Information Technologies (\$10,000)
- Washington State Community College for an alternative approach to training chemical operators for Ohio's workforce (\$8,500)

OLN (www.olin.org) is a consortium of 65 of Ohio's public and private colleges and universities and is an initiative of the Ohio Board of Regents. OLN helps Ohioans access higher education, helps build partnerships among higher education, schools, businesses and communities, and promotes and supports e-learning in the state of Ohio. For additional information regarding the Workforce Emerging Needs program please contact Kate Carey at kcarey@olin.org or 614 995-3240.