

South Central College will receive \$4.5 million to create jobs, train southern Minnesotans for jobs in growing industries

Mankato and Faribault, MN - Rep. Walz announced today that South Central College will receive \$4.5 million from a grant program authorized in the Recovery Act. This funding will be used to hire additional workers at South Central college to train southern Minnesotans for jobs in growing industries, like the health care sector and other emerging industries.

“This news is one more example of the positive impact the Recovery Act is having on southern Minnesotan’s lives,” said Walz. “Not only will this funding create immediate jobs for program instructors, it will ensure that students and workers will have access to the training that will help them get high-paying jobs in new sectors of our economy. This will have a positive economic impact on our communities for a long time to come.”

“This grant will allow South Central College the ability to offer a broader selection of needed health care programs to prospective students in a thirteen county region throughout South Central Minnesota,” said Keith Stover, President of South Central College. “SCC’s certificate offerings will be expanded to offer additional pathways into higher level career fields. These new programs are designed to provide Southern Minnesota with the education necessary to achieve high-wage positions within the health care sector. SCC is pleased to provide support to our regional healthcare employers and expand options for our students.”

The grantee will establish four health care degree and certificate programs (Health Unit Coordinator, Medical Assistant, Radiography, and Pharmacy Technician), deliver

customized certified nurse aide (CNA) training in partnership with Adult Basic Education, and implement a Health Support Specialist Apprenticeship Program. In addition, the Building Health Care Education Pathways project will create a Health Care Careers FastTRAC Academy and provide job placement and retention services for participants.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was passed to create jobs, promote economic growth, and assist those most impacted by the recession. The Recovery Act further provided that projects that prepare workers for careers in the health care sector and other high growth and emerging industries would receive priority.

As many industries experience lay-offs and job losses, the health care industry remains a critical driver in regional economies across the nation, especially southern Minnesota. Employment growth in the health care sector will be driven by significant increases in demand for health care and assistance because of an aging population and longer life expectancies. In addition, projected retirements for current health care workers will necessitate a pipeline of skilled individuals ready to enter health care occupations.