

Calhoun Community College  
Grant Recipient,  
Source: Calhoun 02/17/10 News Release

US Department of Labor announces more than \$225 million in health care and high growth grants Calhoun Community College to receive over \$3.4 million The U.S. Department of Labor today announced more than \$225 million in health care and high growth training grants funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Calhoun Community College is among the institutions and organizations included in the funding and will receive \$3,470,830 to train participants through the new Alabama Center of Excellence in Clean Energy Technology (ACECET), to be located at the college's Decatur campus.

According to the grant, the goal of the ACECET will be to meet regional needs for energy certified practitioners in the areas of energy assessment and energy efficient installation. Calhoun's award was one of only 55 made from over 1400 proposals submitted nationwide and the only award made in the Alabama. According to the Department of Labor, the grants will allow community colleges, community-based organizations, state workforce agencies and other public entities to deliver training that leads to employment in a range of health care fields and other growing industries.

"We are tremendously excited about this grant award and what this funding will mean for our region," commented Calhoun President Marilyn Beck. "This most recent grant marks the fifth major award Calhoun has received from the Department of Labor in as many years, awards now totaling close to \$16M dollars," Beck added.

"The ACECET project is the first of its kind in the state of Alabama leading to an industry-recognized certification and will serve as a national model for community and technical colleges and workforce training providers," said Debi Garrison, Calhoun's grants coordinator.

"The Recovery Act's investments are making a positive difference in the lives of America's working families," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "The Recovery Act funded grants announced today will ensure thousands of workers across the nation can receive high-quality training and employment services, which will lead to good jobs in health care and other industries offering career-track employment and good pay and benefits."

While grantees will serve a wide range of workers, each project will focus on targeted regional populations. Calhoun's award will go toward training dislocated, incumbent and unemployed workers for career opportunities in energy-efficient techniques using the combined strengths and specialties of each participating education and industry-partner.

Funding will support curriculum development, scholarships, student support services, laboratory equipment, personnel, co-op opportunities and renovations to existing unusable classroom space.

"With these funds announced today, workers in communities hardest hit by auto layoffs will receive additional resources to help them prepare for and find new

jobs,” said Dr. Edward Montgomery, executive director of the White House Council on Automotive Communities and Workers. “The president and the administration remain committed to supporting auto communities and their workers.

Today’s announcement marks the sixth and final round of competitive grants made available for employment and training through the Recovery Act. Projects funded through these grants will be conducted in partnership with the public workforce system, businesses and other organizations to guarantee that training leads to jobs. For more information on the range of Department of Labor Employment and Training programs, visit [http://www.doleta.gov/factsheet/ARRA\\_Health\\_and\\_Other.pdf](http://www.doleta.gov/factsheet/ARRA_Health_and_Other.pdf)