**Summary of FY18 Learn to Earn Initiative Awardees – Implementation**

***Funded through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund and LTE Initiative***

**Grants Funded: 5 | Total Committed Program Design and Implementation: $1,641,135**

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**Grantee:** **MassHire Central Region Workforce Board (City of Worcester) Funding Amount:** $321,138

**MassHire WB Region:** Central MA

**Summary of Proposal:** MassHire Central Region Workforce Board prepares participants for Pharmacy Technician positions through their registered pre-apprenticeship program that aims to connect individuals with significant social barriers to these high-priority, regional occupations. The program’s goal is to bring together local education, economic development and workforce development partners to meet employer's demand for skilled workers. Employer Partners: CVS Health, Compare Quality Pharmacy, and the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. Other Partners: Workforce Central Career Center, Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester Community Connections Coalition & Family Resource Center, Worcester Community Action Council, the MassHire North Central Region Workforce Board, the Department of Transitional Assistance, the Worcester Credit Union and the MA Department of Apprenticeship Standards.

**Grantee:** **Holyoke Community College Funding Amount:** $330,000

**MassHire WB Region:** Hampden, Franklin/Hampshire

**Summary of Proposal:** The Holyoke Community College/Greenfield Community College Learn to Earn Medical Assistant Training Partnership of the Pioneer Valley prepares un/underemployed MA residents receiving public assistance for employment as Medical Assistants. Participants have the opportunity to be placed in Registered Apprenticeships as they complete the program, through a partnership with the MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, and as Medical Assistants with employer partners. Employer Partners: Baystate Health, Western Massachusetts Physician Association, and Cooley Dickinson Health Care. Other Partners: Greenfield Community College, Department of Transitional Assistance, MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, MassHire Holyoke Career Center, MassHire Springfield Career Center (formerly Career Point and Future Works), the MassHire Franklin/Hampshire Workforce Board and Career Centers, Wayfinders, and SpringfieldWorks.

**Grantee:** **MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board Funding Amount:** $330,000

**MassHire WB Region:** Merrimack Valley

**Summary of Proposal:** The Advanced Manufacturing for Pre-School Parents (AMPPS) Program will prepare parents, mostly mothers with children in Head Start, for entry level employment in precision machining. AMPPS will address the critical labor shortage for machine operators experienced by the advanced manufacturing industry in the Merrimack Valley. Further, AMPPS will increase earned income and family economic stability, while also addressing the cliff effect, particularly on child care public benefits, that graduates will encounter when they enter employment. Employer Partners: East Coast Welding and Fabrication, Vicor Corp., Berkshire Manufactured Products, Inc., Magellan Aerospace. Other Partners: MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center (formerly ValleyWorks Career Center), Community Action, Inc., Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc., Northeast Manufacturing Consortium (NAMC), Greater Lawrence Technical School.

**Grantee:** **New England Center for Arts & Technology (NECAT) Funding Amount:** $330,000

**MassHire WB Region:** Boston

**Summary of Proposal:** New England Center for Arts & Technology (NECAT) prepares participants for Prep Cook, Line Cook, and Baker positions in the culinary industry. NECAT’s 16-week Culinary Arts Job Training Program helps Boston’s chronically unemployed bridge the skills gap, enter the workforce on a career track and achieve financial self-sufficiency. NECAT’s program is offered free of tuition cost to 150 students annually, who learn practical culinary skills, experience real-world work environments, receive financial coaching and participate in job readiness and attitudinal training. NECAT also provides employment services and post-program support to ensure the long-term success and economic mobility of graduates. NECAT intends to examine cliff effect issues like wage progression as well as regional coordination issues within the food industry. Employer Partners: Harvard University Dining Services, Legal Sea Foods, Encore Boston Harbor, and Colwen Hotels. Other Partners: Roxbury Center for Financial Empowerment.

**Grantee: UTEC Funding Amount:** $329,997

**MassHire WB Region:** Greater Lowell

**Summary of Proposal:** UTEC provides workforce training, education and support services to high risk criminally involved and gang involved young adults, ages 17-25. UTEC has a long track record of helping high risk young adults improve their education and employability, while reducing recidivism and improving public safety in the Merrimack Valley. With assistance through the Learn to Earn program, UTEC is piloting a Culinary Training Program for a subset of their young adult population. This workforce training will prepare young adults for entry-level jobs in the food manufacturing industry. Through UTEC’s Culinary Training Program, young adults will receive hands-on training and experience, wages, tutoring and exam fees for industry-recognized certifications, and a wide range of wraparound support services, such as counseling, childcare, public benefits counseling, financial literacy, court support, meals and transportation. Employer Partners: The Plenus Group and Whole Foods Market – North Atlantic Region. Other Partners: EMPath and UMass Boston’s Center for Social Policy.