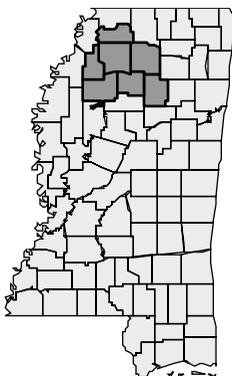


# Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Grants

Period of Performance 09/30/19-09/30/22 	Approved Amount \$2,154,000 
Planned Participants 184 	Target Population Dislocated Workers 



## Panola County, Mississippi

Northwestern Community College (NWCC)

Counties served: Calhoun, Lafayette, Panola, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, and Yalobusha

### Background

The Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Delta Regional Authority (DRA). WORC enables impacted communities to develop local and regional workforce development solutions aligned with existing economic development strategies and community partnerships to promote new, sustainable job opportunities and long-term economic vitality.

### Proposal Summary

The plan has a goal of increasing "industry-focused credential based training programs." The Concourse, through its partnership with NWCC, expects to produce 161 credentialed participants within the first class in the 36-month grant period focused on meeting the needs of regional industry. In addition, the ORA RGP3 calls for collaboration as a way to meet the region's challenges, such as attaining ACT Work Ready Community designation and the implementation of the SPARK program in K-12 education, which is an industry-generated pathway for students to gain an appreciation for manufacturing, learn STEM capabilities, and participate in industry internships.

### Proposed Outcome

The project will mitigate high turnover rates, excessive applicant screening times, and large numbers of unfilled positions. The Concourse will house new curricula in Polymers, Robotic Welding, and Advanced Manufacturing, Diesel Technology, and Cyber Security offering career and technical certificates and associates of applied science degrees. There will also be a new Advanced Manufacturing and Polymers program for Incumbent Workers, providing skill advancement opportunities.

Panola County, Mississippi

161 Public Square

Batesville, Mississippi 38606-2220

Darrell Dixon (662) 561-4116  
ddixon@ndpdd.com