

## Other Attachments a. Abstract

*Innovation Frontier Arizona (IFA) CareerConnect* is a **regional STEM career-pathways initiative** for **940 youth grades 11-14** focused on Southern Arizona's border economy. The initiative will replicate promising sector strategies which have emerged as a result of *direct industry involvement* in the delivery of education at the high-school and community-college levels. H1-B funding from Employment and Training Administration will be used to establish and support identified cohorts through model four-year pathways in identified demand areas of **applied information technology, industrial technology, biotechnology, and aviation technology**. A total of \$5,351,690 is requested over the 54-month project period with \$1,412,468 committed as match. The cost per participant per year is \$2,752.

**Tucson, AZ-based applicant Pima County** (the local Workforce Investment Act entity), will lead **partner WIBs from Yuma, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties; five Local Educational Agencies** (Pima Joint Technological Education District, Yuma Union High School District, Center for Academic Success Charter School, and Santa Cruz Superintendent of Schools); **four regional Institutions of Higher Education** (Pima Community College, Cochise College, Arizona Western College, and University of Arizona – Santa Cruz); and **16 employers in six H-1b need sectors** including Industrial technology (e.g., Abrams), Cyber-Security (e.g., STG Sierra Vista), Bio-Technology (e.g., Bio-Vigilant), Aviation (e.g., Universal Avionics), and Health IT (e.g., HealthTRIO). In addition to serving youth in Tucson (pop. 520,116), *IFA CareerConnect* will serve Cochise County youth in the cities of Douglas (pop. 17,378) and Sierra Vista (pop. 43,888); Santa Cruz County youth in the cities of Nogales (pop. 20,837) and Rio Rico (pop. 18,962); and Yuma County youth in the city of Yuma (pop. 93,064).

Southern Arizona's high-tech sectors do not have enough highly-skilled technicians to meet demand in critical occupations. *IFA CareerConnect* will give the established *Innovation Frontier Arizona* collaboration of workforce development entities, businesses and educational institutions in the region the opportunity to address current demand in specific H-1B industries through five 11-14-grade pathways, and establish two 9-12-grade applied-math STEM Learning Centers in Santa Cruz to dramatically increase the supply of graduates with math foundation skills. For older students the project will focus a cross-system effort on connecting each industry-specific cohort through the shortest pathway to urgent talent needs in the region's key businesses. Work teams that engage multiple employers who share a common skill shortage, K-12 and community-college faculty/administrators, and workforce staff will align existing assets, develop new ones where there are gaps, eliminate overlaps. Youths will enroll into small, career-focused learning communities in their junior year, and finish at least two years of college. For younger students at high risk of falling far behind in math, IFA will implement a model MetroMatematicas program for 9-12 grade cohort. All enrolled students will complete a sequence of industry-relevant courses that prepare them for employment or post-secondary education. Students will receive specialized career-pathway planning, dual enrollment options and supports - as they prepare to graduate with at least 22 credits and with the sufficient math and English skills. Students will further develop their readiness through paid internships and mentoring from industry professionals. **Students will earn industry-recognized certificates and diplomas in high-demand pathway careers** including, but not limited to, machining, industrial equipment maintenance, medical coding, Health IT, biotechnology, aviation technology, and cyber-security. **The project will serve 185 youth in Year 1; 940 unduplicated youth over the 4-year project period.** Contact: Dorothee Harmon, [dorothee.harmon@pima.gov](mailto:dorothee.harmon@pima.gov)

**Other Attachments b. Signed letters of commitment and/or MOUs**

**Workforce Investment**

Pima County Workforce Investment Board  
Yuma Private Industry Council  
Cochise Private Industry Council  
Santa Cruz County Workforce Investment Board

**Institutions of Higher Education**

Pima Community College  
Cochise Community College  
Arizona Western College  
University of Arizona  
Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District

**Local Educational Associations**

Pima Joint Technological Education District  
Yuma Union Unified School District  
Center for Academic Success  
Santa Cruz Superintendent of Schools  
Nogales School District  
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District  
Rio Rico School District

**Employers/Employer Groups**

*INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY*

Abrams – Tucson  
Alside Yuma  
CAID Tucson  
Gowan Yuma  
Hi-Tech Tucson  
ITDE Tucson  
Northwestern Yuma  
Wildcat Mining

*CYBER-SECURITY*

STG SierraVista

*HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY*

Kelly Services  
Mariposa Community Health Center

*BIO-TECHNOLOGY*

Bio-Vigilant

*AVIATION*

Universal Avionics  
Ascent Aviation Services  
BEAerospace

*STEM*

Metromatematicas