

\$ 400,000

#### **4. Application Abstract**

The Aero-Flex Apprenticeship represents the strong partnership between West Los Angeles College, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Training Funding Partners, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers-ToolingU, and local aerospace advanced manufacturing companies. Aero-Flex Apprenticeship is a flexible approach to meeting the evolving needs of the dynamic aerospace industry for engineers and, over time, expanding into engineering technician positions.

During the two-year project period, the Aero-Flex Apprenticeship project will:

- convert initial positive conversations with employers into membership on a committed Unilateral Apprenticeship Committee (UAC) for the apprenticeship,
- reach out to the Los Angeles County Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) key talent to develop awareness of the project and required program requirements,
- using occupation-based input from employers develop a competency-base approach to Related and Supplemental Instruction (RSI) and the On-The-Job (OJT) portions of the apprenticeship and validate these through the UAC,
- collaborate with DAS to achieve approval of the Aero-Flex Apprenticeship in Engineering by January 2018,
- join with employers to market, recruit, and enroll qualified apprentices into the Aero-Flex Apprenticeship in engineering, and
- develop a sustainability model for the Aero-Flex Apprenticeship.

The Aero-Flex Apprenticeship is innovative and pioneering as it builds on existing relationships between

- the partners and major aerospace industry employers and aerospace employers, aerospace engineering programs, and employer-sponsored internships,
- portions of RSI will be delivered through proven online methodologies and all of RSI will be competency-based ensuring content mastery before progression, and
- an analysis of required workplace skills for first year engineers resulting in a competency-based approach under the guidance of experienced engineers.

The result will be a 21<sup>st</sup> century apprenticeship program in a new field engineering, that create opportunity for diverse populations to access high-paying career fields in aerospace engineering.