

Helping the Hands that Feed Louisiana: Fostering Flexible and Affordable Paths for Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers to Compete for In-demand Industry Sector and Occupational Positions

Meeting the educational needs of migrant and seasonal farm workers has been the focus of the Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC) High School Equivalency program for the past four years. Administered by LDCC's Center for Adult Development, located in Monroe, Louisiana, LDCC HEP has served 398 migrant and seasonal farm workers in Northeast Louisiana, specifically the parishes of Bienville, Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Madison, Richland, Tensas and West Carroll. The program consistently reached its targets graduating 293 participants with 288 upgrading employment or entering post-secondary education.

LDCC HEP proposes to expand its current services to focus on in-demand industry and occupational positions. LDCC proposes to serve **75** qualified **commuter** participants with its extensive network of braided services of adult education, English-as-a-second language, industry-based certification classes, and wrap-around services ensuring participants' success in its **9 centers**. LDCC HEP meets competitive preference **priorities 1 and 2** projecting a **69%** High School Equivalency attainment, **80%** of participants entering postsecondary education, training, military or upgrading employment, **40%** of participants obtaining an industry based certificate and **30%** of participants entering an in-demand industry secondary or occupational position. LDCC HEP proposes to implement a controlled, random trial exploring contextualized education specifically integrating WorkKeys as opposed to a noncontextualized classroom.