



Welcome to the World of TAACCCT!

Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants provide community colleges with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less. This is suited for workers who are eligible for training under the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers program, and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations.

What does this mean for Helena College? It presents a unique opportunity for us to participate with 12 other institutions of higher education to expand our trade programs, bring more flexibility to our curriculum and make the programs more inclusive with evening classes and stronger student support. By including more online curriculum possibilities for our students, there will be more opportunity for them to take classes from a great distance from campus, as well as saving themselves time from not having to commute to a classroom for every session.

Additionally, this grant has substantial funds to purchase new equipment and simulation software to enhance the students' learning experience.

TAACCCT Staff

Amy Kong: Math

Forrest Kramer: Machining

Steve Felter: Diesel

Justin Marks: Welding

Dan Dobyns: Workforce Navigator

Rick Dendinger: Program Director

An additional thanks to the many staff workers at Helena College who are not paid by grant funds, but who are spending many hours of their time to ensure the success of this project!



Customer bike rack that students from Helena College made Eliza Wiley / Independent Record

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- New equipment to get juiced up about...



Amatrol AC/DC Electrical Learning System

Through the TAACCCT grant, Helena College was able to purchase four Amatrol trainers that include six Learning Activity Packets: basic electrical circuits; electrical measurements, circuit analysis; inductance and capacitance; combination circuits and transformers. Using this self-directed curriculum, students are presented with materials where there is immediate application, with subsequent lessons introducing new material and enforcing previously learned lessons with hands on opportunity. Additionally, some of the curriculum has online capability so that we can offer a more flexible, offering as a result a hybrid learning experience.

James Brown: TAACCCT is good for my soul...

James Brown was working as a manager in a martial arts studio, as well as a captain/foreman for the Forest Service and BLM during the fire season. He decided he really needed a steady job that paid the bills, yet he wasn't sure where to turn as he was a non-traditional student with years of work experience under his belt.

After much research, he found the expanded computer aided manufacturing program at Helena College a perfect fit: evening program, ability to hold his day job, hybrid curriculum that allows him to do some classwork at home and an excellent student to teacher ratio. James also finds working with the workforce navigator, Dan Dobyns, a huge benefit as it streamlines the entire education process for him and get things done quicker, so that he can concentrate on his education

James moved from Billings to Helena to attend the Helena College program in order to jump start his career, as he says "you have to find the means to take it on". Helena College is excited to empower James and others like him so that they can succeed in their career aspirations.



Amy Kong

Staff Introduction: Amy Kong

Amy was born and grew up in Hong Kong, then immigrated to the U.S. in 2009. She can read and write both simplified and traditional Chinese characters, speak fluent Cantonese and elementary Mandarin, which really helps her with math! She graduated from the University of Hong Kong and taught mathematics there for 11 years.

This is her 3rd year teaching at Helena College and she is the author and instructor of the new curriculum for the technical math class (M111T), as well as teaching developmental math classes online. She feels Helena College is a great institution with passionate educators and wonderful students, and loves teaching here!



James Brown

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