



Partnership Opportunity Overview

The National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) is prepared to partner and help TAACCCT grantees meet and exceed performance expectations, including enhancing credential attainment, completion of programs, improved employment opportunities for participants and increased earnings. NIMS can work with TAACCCT grantees in the following ways:

Establish a Comprehensive Certification Program Tied to Employment

The Comprehensive Certification Program provides community colleges with the opportunity to issue NIMS certifications to TAACCCT participants in order to foster improved employment and earnings outcomes. By establishing NIMS certifications at a local community college, TAACCCT outcomes will be improved in the following ways:

- ***Improved Credential Attainment:*** Each NIMS certification issued to a TAACCCT participant counts toward the “Total Number of Participants Earning Credentials” measure.
- ***Improved Participant Employment:*** Because NIMS certifications are portable and recognized nationally by employers, TAACCCT participant employment outcomes will be enhanced. NIMS certifications will assist community colleges with a higher number of participants meeting the “Total Number of Participants Employed” outcome measure.
- ***Improved Earnings:*** NIMS certifications improve the level of skills and competencies attained by TAACCCT participants. This increased portfolio skills and competencies typically qualifies TAACCCT participants for higher-level skill jobs and higher wages. NIMS certifications will assist community colleges with improved outcomes for “Total Number of Participants Who Received a Wage Increase Post-Enrollment” for incumbent worker participants.

Provide Subject Matter Expertise

- I. *Provide instructional support to faculty in order to integrate NIMS standards and credentials into course design and educational pathways*

NIMS can provide subject matter expertise in partnership with community college faculty and staff involved in delivering curriculum and courses to students. Activities and deliverables tied to this include:

- Understanding NIMS Skill Standards and curriculum alignment methods.
- Receiving a working knowledge to credential trainees and students.
- Faculty earning up to eleven (11) NIMS Level I Machining credentials. This includes:
 - Blueprint reading and manual/CNC parts manufacturing
 - Critical work activities for CNC machine operations
 - Quality inspection
 - Related theory testing
- Implementing testing procedures and policies within existing training programs.
- Learning the steps required for accreditation.

II. *Assist with curriculum design or review to ensure alignment with industry standards*

- Understanding NIMS Skill Standards and curriculum alignment methods.
- Receiving a working knowledge to credential trainees and students.
- Review testing procedures and policies

III. *Work collaboratively on employer engagement strategies to ensure recognition of NIMS credentials in recruitment and retention practices at companies*

NIMS has a stakeholder base of over 6,000 metalworking companies. The major trade associations in the industry substantially supported the development of the NIMS standards and its credentials. The associations remain actively engaged in sustaining NIMS operations and are committed to the upgrading and maintenance of the standards. Building on this expert industry engagement, NIMS is strongly positioned to assist community colleges and other TAACCCT partners with establishing improved recognition of NIMS credentials in recruiting, hiring and retaining TAACCCT participants and other workers.

IV. *Work collaboratively to embed NIMS credentials into career pathways*

Community colleges have specific regional accreditation and state requirements related to associate's degrees and other for-credit educational pathways. NIMS can work collaboratively with colleges to develop a "stackable credential" portfolio that integrates NIMS certifications into the recognized and accredited pathways established at community colleges.