The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded $296,356 (Award Abstract #2055049) to Heartland Community College (HCC) to advance industrial technology education through the project Improving Industrial Technology Education with Flexible Learning Options and Student Support Services. Heartland Community College (HCC) is a comprehensive community college serving all or part of seven Illinois counties with a main campus in Normal and regional centers in Pontiac and Lincoln. Heartland's Flexible Learning for Industrial Technology Education (FLITE) project will demonstrate a new model for industrial technology education that employs an open manufacturing lab and flexible delivery of curriculum to enhance student access and meet industry workforce needs.

FLITE project goals will be addressed through FIVE key objectives:

1. Creating an open lab for industrial-based equipment
   - Our administration has committed specific space for the FLITE Open Lab and we are working with our facilities and trades to appropriately modify it for the industrial-based equipment that will be used in it to support flexible learning formats
   - Have spoken with FT faculty, part-time faculty, and students about their interest in partnering with us to provide Supplementary Instruction – raises awareness of the coming project and the training that will be included
   - Hired an Associate Director of Career and Technical Education who will be advising current students, recruiting new students, and supporting student success
2. Incorporating innovative student success resources to complement the open lab
   - Rolling out additional student support activity this fall with" CTE Program Coaching" by full-time program coordinator faculty
3. Adapting curriculum
   - Syllabuses of courses to be taught in the FLITE Open Lab will be reviewed, revised, and updated this fall so that instructional re-design can begin to better support these courses in the FLITE Open Lab flexible format
4. Promoting equity through educational access
   - No specific actions to report
5. Increasing industrial technology career awareness
   - Again, hired an Associate Director of Career and Technical Education who will be advising current students, recruiting new students, and supporting student success

"Flexible learning formats within HCC's Industrial Technology programs and courses will make it easier for students to begin, efficiently progress through, and complete our Industrial Technology programs and courses," said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Rick Pearce.

In the first year of the grant we will:

- REVIEW the HCC's Industrial Technology curriculum (HCC plans to revise the MAIN 101 and 202 courses from single 3-credit course into 1-credit and 2-credit courses to allow for and support flexible learning formats)
- ACQUIRE the additional equipment needed to set up the open-access laboratory and retro-fit space to meet equipment needs
- COMPLETE Supplemental Instruction (SI) Supervisory Training as the first part of HCC adopting a formalized Supplemental Instruction (SI) model (the SI model will provide current students the opportunity to become a peer leader which will strengthen their own skills as they provide support for their fellow students under supervision from faculty/staff)
- WORK WITH industry partners and advisory committee members to develop this project (including input for equipment, guest speakers, industry-based learning activities, and expansion of secondary partnerships to develop workforce pipelines and promote career pathways for area students)

Contact for more information:

Kimberly Travers (PI)
Distinguished Professor of Industrial Technology
Kim.Travers@heartland.edu
309-268-8851

Chris Miller (Co-PI)
Distinguished Professor of Industrial Technology
Chris.Miller@heartland.edu
309-268-8855