Q: In year two of the IT3 grant, what is happening? (i.e. Training phase, making courses available)
A: The Grant is off to a great start and has already assisted 522 students with certifications such as CompTIA A+, SAP, Microsoft Sharepoint, Project Management Professional (PMP), Certified Assistant Project Management (CAPM), Lean Six Sigma (Green, Yellow and Black Belts) to assist with securing high demand positions like IT Project Managers, Sharepoint Administrators, and Lean Project Leaders. To broaden our course offerings, we have partnered with Global Knowledge Inc. (a world-class IT and Business training provider) who is providing on-demand, remote, and face-to-face delivery options of courses and national certifications. This is particularly helpful in working with our partners who may require incumbent workers’ training to be provided at a specified time that is not congruent to the college’s typical course schedule.

Q: Target recipients for the grant:
A: The Grant was created to serve the following groups: underemployed, unemployed, long-term unemployed, incumbent workers and future San Jacinto instructors.

Q: How can a person receive assistance from this grant (requirements)?
A: In order to receive training funded through the IT3 grant, persons must meet the following qualifications:
   1.) Incumbent, underemployed, unemployed, or long-term unemployed
   2.) At least “some” college experience, preferably an Associate’s Degree
   3.) Have at least 2 years of workplace experience (preferably IT related)

Q: How much can a person receive for his/her training?
A: In order to import laborers into the United States (to do jobs for which US workers are not sufficiently qualified) employers may utilize the H1B program. For employers to do so, they must pay a permit fee for each such worker. Those fees are collected and used through the H1B grant program to offer scholarships to train American workers for these positions. Through the H1B grant program, we are able to provide scholarships for 540 underemployed, unemployed, and long-term unemployed participants. Each participant may receive training in two classes and the related certification exams. We have been able to negotiate significant discounts from the selected educational provider (Global Knowledge) in order to achieve these ends.

Q: Average amount of weeks per course?
A: Course length varies and depends to a large extent on the certification being sought. We have courses that last anywhere from less than one week to several months. We strive to meet the needs of employers and applicants in structuring our courses. But since you asked for an average course length let me say that most of the courses provider through Global Knowledge will last from 40 to 80 contact hours (1 to 2 weeks). Courses provided by the college normally run, on average 8 to 10 weeks.
Q: Who are your main partners in this grant?
A: Our main partners on the IT3 Grant are IBM, Lockheed Martin, MEI Technologies, H-GAC (Houston-Galveston Area Council), and BAHEP (Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership). As mentioned, we have recently brought on Global Knowledge and the DB Consulting Group (JSC). We will continue to reach out to serve additional companies over the duration of the grant.

Q: Is it too late for other partners to join the consortium and enroll incumbent workers into this program?
A: No, we encourage area businesses, particularly small businesses, to get in touch with us for this purpose.

Q: Types of courses offered – description of curriculum: (Please list any high demand courses that employers look for.)
A: Keep your IT and business skills current with industry-recognized certifications, including Cisco CCNA and CCNP certifications, Microsoft MCSA and MCSE certifications, CBAP® and PMP® certifications, ITIL® certifications, and certifications from CompTIA and Red Hat. For a list of all the certifications including the business skills (Lean Six and Negotiations) please visit: http://www.globalknowledge.com/training/certification.asp?pageid=12&country=United+States

Q: How long does it (training) take before someone is ready to pursue job opportunities in cyber security? (Reporters often want to know if this is a fast track way into a cyber-security job.) What types of certifications are offered upon completion? (Please list any high demand certifications employers want.)
A: Students should be ready to pursue employment opportunities after completion of their nationally recognized certification. In fact, as part of the grant application we require students to list a company with whom they have contacted which has advised them that would be a viable candidate if they receive a specific certification. This requires the student to focus on what training the employer is seeking and enables them to be a more highly qualified candidate. To get a perspective on just how many IT jobs are awaiting candidates, we encourage them to an online job provider: www.indeed.com for example, has listed 15,270 IT jobs in Houston on the day of this posting.

Q: I understand that the grant is seeking long term unemployed participants and veterans, but do I have to belong to one of those categories in order to qualify as a grant recipient?
A: No, applicants do not have to be veterans or among the long term unemployed (greater than 27 weeks). The grant serves four categories of participants: Unemployed; Underemployed; Incumbent workers; and Train the Trainer applicants.
Q: Can you briefly explain the DOL approved definitions of the terms of qualification, so that I might see if I might qualify?
A: Yes.

**Incumbent Worker**: An incumbent worker is a worker who is currently on the payroll of the applicant employer; 18 years old and above; and is legally authorized to work in the United States.

**Unemployed Worker**: An individual who is without a job, and wants and is available for work. The determination of whether an individual is without a job is made in accordance with the following criteria, used by the DOL Bureau of Labor Statistics to define individuals as unemployed:

(A) An individual who did not work during the seven consecutive days prior to application, who made specific efforts to find a job within the past four weeks prior to application, and who was available for work during the seven consecutive days prior to application. Also included as unemployed are those who did not work; and individuals:

- Waiting to be called back to a job from which they have been laid off; or
- Waiting to report to a new wage or salary job scheduled to start within 30 days [WIA 101(47)]

**Under-employed Worker**: An individual who is working part time but desires full time employment, or who is working in employment not commensurate with the individual’s demonstrated level of educational and/or skill achievement. [20 C.F.R. 668.150]