

City of Lawrence
Outside Agency
Bi-annual Report
2016

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org. Reports on activities from January 2016 to June 2016 are due on July 15th 2016. Cumulative reports on activities from January 2016 through December 2016 are due on February 15th 2017.

Agency Name:

Reporting Period (please check one):

☒ January - June
(deadline July 15)

☐ January – December
(deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

From January through June 2016, city funds were used for a range of activities related to our training mission. This included paying for supplies, maintenance of equipment and facility, insurance, internet and phone usage, professional services, and other operational activities. These activities supported Peaslee Tech to offer credit-based programs and courses, attain a gift from industry to build a new Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) training laboratory, and develop several new custom training courses for industry. We offered a second semester of Building My Career, a course which includes Creative Problem Solving, Conflict Resolution in the Workplace, Financial Literacy, and Career Building modules. We hosted a community job fair, industrial partner meetings, and informational tours for high school students who are interested in skills training for the 2016-2017 school year, so that they could become familiar with our facility. Grants and other fundraising efforts were accomplished as well.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

Goal 1: Programming and enrollment—broaden credit programs and enrollments. During this reporting period Peaslee continued the programs and courses set in Fall 2015. As with most higher education entities, the Fall semester determines most of the programming for Spring (e.g. students enrolling in the Construction program for fall take the corresponding next group of courses slated for the spring, etc.). We built out the new Belcher Family HVAC Laboratory. This effort brought together industry (P1 Group), education (Neosho County Community College, and Peaslee Tech), to renovate a space and hold a grand opening through the Lawrence Chamber. NCCC brought most of the training equipment to outfit the lab. This will greatly increase our capacity for HVAC hands-on training. The Fall 2016 HVAC program is at its enrollment limit and we are opening a second section. We are also working with Hutchinson Community College to develop a plumbing program. No other plumbing programs, in which any citizen may enroll, are available in Kansas. We have targeted the space for building out the lab and hope to start renovation within the next year. We are talking with Johnson County Community College about developing an electrical training program and are similarly targeting space for that lab. The current groundwork for these initiatives will lead to new programming and enrollment if the project receives funding and/or in-kind support similar to the Belcher HVAC Lab. Our goal of 10% over Fall 2015 will require having at least 165 enrollments by Dec 31, 2016.

Goal 2: Gifts and Grants: Our goal was to increase 9% over 2015 goals for gifts and grants. The in-kind gift from the Smitty Belcher Family, to create the Belcher Family HVAC Lab, exceeded expectations in terms of building renovation. This has been the largest gift, yet, to Peaslee Tech. This resulted in an increase from

17,000 square feet of renovation to 21,000 square feet of renovated space within the facility. The goal for cash gifts and grants during the reporting period was \$34,000. We attained a MAMTC Grant of \$30,000 and receive an additional \$2,700, totaling \$32,700. Thus, we are \$1,300 below our target.

Goal 3: Training for Industry and Workforce. Our goal was to offer at least 4-6 training sessions by Dec 31, 2016. We have surpassed that goal for non-credit, short course offerings. Peaslee Tech developed the following courses during the period of the report (note, some of the courses which were developed during the time of the report are offered after June 30, 2016):

- 11 OSHA Safety courses (500,501, 510, 511, 521, 2045, 2255, 2264, 3015, 3095, 3115), April 2016 through October 2016. We did not receive adequate enrollments in the first of these but six of the courses remain offered in the near future.
- Photonics Workshop, in conjunction with PSU, April 2016
- Automotive Basics in conjunction with NAPA, Feb 2016
- Teacher Technology in conjunction with PSU, June 2016
- School Based Business Course in conjunction with PSU, June 2016
- Two Supervision Courses for area industrial partners—held in early July 2016
- Trouble Shooting Alternating Current Motors for area industrial partners —to be held in July 2016
- Electric Motor Drives and Troubleshooting Electric Motor Drives for area industrial partners —to be held in August 2016

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

Training: Peaslee Tech has impacted the lives of more than 150 students/trainees who have taken our credit and noncredit courses. Certificates have been provided to students for OSHA safety training and career courses. Also, general safety skills are taught in all skills programs. These safety skills creates safer workplaces, less injury and more productivity in our community. The “Building My Career” courses were offered free to 16 individuals due to a sponsorship by Emprise Bank and they received Certificates of Completion. These individuals learn how to maximize interviewing skills, deal with multi-generation workplaces, resolve conflicts, solve problems, and communicate better. No academic certificates have been provided by community colleges or tech schools yet for our HVAC, Construction, or Industrial Engineering Technology programs because these programs are 4 semesters in length and we have only completed two semesters. However, 20 trainees (independent, industrial-based, and high school individuals) have completed credit coursework as part of these programs and then taken these skills back into their respective workplaces/future workplaces.

Facility Resources: Peaslee Tech has provided our facility to United Way; Lawrence Community Shelter; Big Heart Pet Brands; Community Job Fairs; educational tours for Osher Institute, New Generations Society, Lawrence Homebuilders Association, and the Empty Nesters group; hosted a state-wide MAMTC (manufacturing group) meeting; and other groups. Peaslee Tech serves as a landlord to the Lawrence Workforce Center (LWC). The LWC provides assessment, training, and job placement so our relationship facilitates both of our missions. Another industrial partner also has leased space from us but were purchased and moved to KC. We are negotiating a new lease with a new industry partner. Having these tenants creates stability for Peaslee Tech while serving the community for workforce development.

Public Presentations and Company Visits: The executive director has consulted with, presented to, or done onsite visits with 55 companies, government groups, schools, or community organizations during the reporting period. The purposes of these visits varied, but all of them focused on learning about the organizations, informing them about Peaslee Tech, and trying to create opportunities for area workforce.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

State funding of community colleges has been cut several times and this has impacted our educational providers' (FHTC, JCCC, NCCC) ability to support programming they offer in Peaslee Tech. The community colleges, and we, have adjusted and created alternative strategies, cut back on equipment purchases, and found other creative ways to deal with the funding cuts while maintaining our programs.

Chillers, the roof, and other infrastructure within the facility are old and outdated. This has caused the staff members to spend considerable time dealing with companies doing repairs, working on some equipment, or analyzing problems, etc. The repair expenses have been high and will continue.

Community awareness has been a challenge. Lawrence citizens are fully aware of university educational opportunities but skills training at community college and technical college levels has not been part of this community's culture. Brand awareness requires multiple exposures to the brand, so we have implemented marketing strategies including purchased and earned advertisements, social media, and face-to-face interactions with many groups, but "getting the message out" will be a challenge until the brand is more established.

Under staffing has spread us very thin at times. Often, a tech center has to be open during evenings (when people get off of work and can take classes) and on Saturdays, aside from the typical 8 to 5 hrs.

Unexpected tenant exit and work spent to get a new tenant. Our largest tenant company was purchased by another company, which moved the operations to Kansas City. The legal and logistic work around them leaving and then attaining a new client, which is still under development, has taken a large amount of time. This move was unexpected, yet it is critical to attain a new tenant for Peaslee Tech's stability.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

The city provided us \$50,000 during the report period. 100% of that allocation has been spent across the expense categories of our submitted budget.