RESTORE Project Boosting Career Development

One of the successful restoration projects underway is the Mississippi Gulf Coast Work-Ready Community Credential (GCWR) training project. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) was awarded a RESTORE Act grant from MDEQ for the development and implementation of the GCWR training. At no cost, students enroll in a basic skills training class leading to industry-specific credit courses or potential employment/internship opportunities. "Bucket 1" funding through the RESTORE Act includes provision for projects that enhance workforce development and job creation.

At the project's inception, MGCCC worked with industry partners on the Gulf Coast to determine the employment needs in the college's district. Following those crucial conversations, it was determined that no-cost credit programs available upon successful completion of the GCWR credential program will initially include a one-year Massage Therapy program and an eight-week Commercial Truck Driving (CDL) program. MGCCC began offering a Cosmetology program in August 2018, and is currently developing Oil and

Gas and Advanced Martime Manufacturing Programs for deployment in 2019. Additional industry-specific credit programs may be added based on industry demand.

The GCWR program began registering students in July 2017 into the Gulf Coast Work Ready course. Enrollment from that date through August 2018, has totaled 122, and of that number, 112 have successfully completed the course. Through August 2018, 93 students that have received the Work

Ready Credential have gone on to enroll in the industry specific training programs. To date, 39 students completing the industry training programs have secured employment in their field of training.

A real world difference is being made with these RESTORE funds in individuals' lives as well as the economy of the Gulf Coast.