



## **Request for Qualifications – Architects** **PCCUA CENTER FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION**

Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, in accordance with the policies of the Board of Trustees, is soliciting responses from qualified architects for the PCCUA Center for Workforce Innovation.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **Purpose**

The PCCUA Center for Workforce Innovation will be a highly visible, hands-on hub where local people gain the skills employers actually need. Built from community priorities identified in a multi-year planning process, this Center answers a clear call: remove the barriers that keep people out of good jobs and build straightforward, stackable pathways into careers. The Center allows PCCUA to expand training capacity, deepen employer partnerships, and connect learners — from high school through incumbent workers — to real hiring pipelines and industry credentials.

#### **Why This Matters**

The Delta region continues to face deep, persistent economic challenges driven by low labor force participation, limited job placement pathways, and a widening skills gap. These issues were documented extensively through the Alliance for Rural Impact's **SEA Change: A Blueprint for Transformation**, a 24-month, community-driven planning initiative that engaged residents, employers, educators, and civic leaders across Southeastern Arkansas. The Center creates a single, regional hub that aligns training with real-time employer demand and builds sustainable career pathways that reduce poverty and strengthen economic opportunity.

#### **What the Center Will Offer**

- Hands-on training labs for manufacturing, construction trades, transportation, HVAC, welding, CNC, robotics, 3D printing, cybersecurity, and health sciences.
- Regional Apprenticeship RTI hub delivering classroom and lab instruction required by state and federal apprenticeship programs.
- Short-term upskilling and industry credentials (OSHA and other recognized certifications).
- Employer collaboration space for curriculum design, equipment planning, and direct hiring pipelines.
- Career Coach & wraparound supports: individualized career planning, résumé/interview prep, placement assistance, and help accessing transportation and childcare.

#### **Regional Impact Targets**

- 30% increase in student enrollment, expanding access to high-demand training
- 20% increase in incumbent worker upskilling, strengthening retention and advancement

- 15% improvement in job placement rates, connecting graduates to stable employment
- Higher wages and increased career mobility, especially for underserved populations
- A more adaptable, competitive regional workforce, aligned with employer needs

#### **Location and Readiness**

PCCUA has purchased the property at 590 Oakland Ave, Helena-West Helena, AR.

#### **Project Snapshot**

Estimated Construction Budget (est.): \$13,183,257

#### **SELECTION PROCESS**

The College will select one firm via a single selection process. Respondents should prepare a single Statement of Qualifications, from which the university will shortlist a maximum of three firms. Based on interviews of those teams, the selection committee will make one recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

#### **ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<i>Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued</i>	<i>April 16</i>
<i>Statement of Qualification (SOQ) due</i>	<i>May 4</i>
<i>Interviews of shortlisted firms</i>	<i>May 18 and 19</i>

#### **SUBMISSION**

**The deadline for responses is 11:00am local time on Tuesday, May 4, 2026.**

All respondents will be notified of the results by EMAIL, so please provide accurate contact information.

**Address five (5) copies of responses to:** Stan Sullivant  
Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas  
P.O. Box 785  
1000 Campus Drive  
Helena, AR 72342

#### **Notice to design teams:**

The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees has expressed a clear preference for design teams that include an Arkansas architect. Please note that this will be considered during the selection process.

### Format requirements:

Printed responses should be no larger than 8.5in x 11in, limited to **50 sheets maximum (100 pages)**, fully bound. **Responses that do not meet these requirements will be disqualified.**

Please send a digital copy of the response via email to [ssullivan@pccua.edu](mailto:ssullivan@pccua.edu) in addition to the printed booklets.

*To avoid potential conflicts of interest, respondents should not communicate with university faculty or staff about this project. This document provides the relevant information for assembling a Statement of Qualifications. If you have questions about the selection process or the project scope, you can send them via email to [ssullivan@pccua.edu](mailto:ssullivan@pccua.edu).*

### Content requirements:

Include the information below and organize it in an easily accessible manner. You do not need to divide the response into chapters exactly matching the descriptions below. **Responses that do not include the required licensure information will be disqualified.**

#### 1. Proof of licensure or eligibility:

*Architects:* All firms shall be licensed, or eligible for licensure, in the State of Arkansas. Eligible firms not currently licensed in Arkansas must send a letter to the Arkansas State Board of Architects (501-682-3171/501-682-3172 fax) stating their intent to respond to an RFQ issued by Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas. Please include project name, submittal date, and proof of valid NCARB certification in the letter. Consulting and joint venture firms are also required to be licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Architects. Notification to the State Board must be made PRIOR to responding to this solicitation, and **A COPY OF EITHER A VALID ARKANSAS LICENSE OR THE LETTER OF INTENT TO THE STATE BOARD DESCRIBED ABOVE FOR ALL TEAM MEMBER FIRMS MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE RESPONSE.** The final selected firm(s) will have 30 days to make application for corporate licensure after they are awarded the contract.

*Civil Engineers:* All engineers shall hold individual licenses in the State of Arkansas, and all engineering firms shall hold a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) issued by the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors.

Joint venture firms are also required to hold a COA. A COPY OF A VALID ARKANSAS CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE SUBMITTAL.

2. Organizational chart for design team and all consultants
3. **Specific project experience** (within the past five years) with community colleges and/or workforce center projects.
4. **Specific project experience** (within the past five years) of working with community colleges in the Arkansas Delta region.

5. **Specific project experience** (within the past five years) of experience working with and knowledge of US Economic Development Administration (EDA), Delta Regional Authority (DRA), or other federal or state funding sources.
6. Current office size, personnel description, and workload
7. Proof of current professional liability insurance coverage (\$1,000,000 minimum required)
8. List of projects currently under contract with state agencies or educational facilities
9. Certificate of women-owned or minority-owned business, if applicable

**POTENTIAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED**

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY, FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENTS, GRAPHIC PRESENTATION, SITE PLANNING, ENGINEERING, LANDSCAPE DESIGN, INTERIOR DESIGN, COST EVALUATION, SCHEMATIC DESIGN, DESIGN DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS, CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, AND PROJECT CLOSEOUT.

## LOCATIONS

### AERIAL OF SUBJECT PROPERTY

