

Impact on Individual and Community: Central Piedmont Community College

Impact on Individual

The Walmart Brighter Futures Summer Bridge Program at CPCC transitions academically underprepared and underrepresented students to credit-bearing certificates and industry recognized credentials in STEM-related careers. The Summer Bridge Program is a six-week program in which students are enrolled in classes based on their performance on a placement test given at CPCC. Students who successfully complete the Summer Bridge Program can earn up to six hours of college credit. Twelve Walmart Brighter Futures Summer Bridge (2014) students have been enrolled in middle-skill job training. An additional 20 students have enrolled in the 2015 Summer Bridge Program.

In addition, the impact of gaining hands-on middle-skill job training and work experience through the Workplace Learning Program (co-op) has allowed Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project students to acquire the skills needed to obtain employment. This boost of confidence from the middle-skill job training and the co-op experience has led to several students being hired full-time and part-time across the Charlotte region. All of the Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project students who participated in co-op interviews during the 2015 spring semester were selected by the employer for a summer/fall co-op. Through the summer of 2015, it is expected that as many as 60 students will have had a co-op experience. One student who completed her Summer Bridge program during the summer of 2014 started her co-op in the spring of 2015. She was so successful that she was offered a permanent full-time position while she continued to work on her degree.

Career services are offered by the Student Success Coach on an individual and group workshop basis. Ninety-six students have received coaching on such topics as writing a résumé, drafting an effective cover letter, conducting job searches, utilizing social networks, interviewing, and conducting effective follow up.

Impact on Community

An integral aspect of CPCC's training is workplace learning. Students are placed in the community to receive hands-on learning through the Workplace Learning Program. For example, CPCC students have been an integral part of several Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools' (CMS) information technology co-op projects since the spring of 2014. The interns have been reliable and professional while representing CPCC and CMS.

At the inception of the partnership with CPCC, CMS dedicated time and resources for planning and training. This resulted in a positive experience for the interns as well as a return on investment for CMS. One intern worked closely with the Information Systems and Support networking team to prepare switches and access points for installation in schools. Three interns have worked as part of the Windows 7 upgrade teams, installing the updated operating system on instructional and administrative computers. Recently, the interns have assisted with Chromebook preparation for the Digital Learning Conversion initiative.

CMS and CPCC have collaborated on plans to extend the internship program. Each spring, CPCC will recommend up to six students to work at least 10 hours per week for course credit. CMS will outline the assignments and integrate the students in various information technology projects. CPCC will provide

the work assessment templates, and CMS will be responsible for the oversight and review of each student's work. The goal will be to transition at least two of the spring interns to paid positions for the summer and fall.