Challenges and Lessons Learned: Central Piedmont Community College

It has been challenging to track student information and the specific services received by students. The STEM Career Connection program has many components including intake, literacy training, job readiness, wraparound services, middle-skill training, and employment. CPCC created a student application in SharePoint which tracks participant information and services received. All program components were assigned a clear definition for consistency in tracking across all service areas.

Another challenge in recruiting participants has been the lack of scholarships for tuition, books, and fees. It would have been beneficial for the grant budget to include scholarship support for potential students who do not qualify for financial aid. Students have been referred to the CPCC Foundation and local workforce initiatives to receive financial aid and scholarships.

An additional challenge has been the length of curriculum courses which increases the time that a student participates in training before securing employment. This challenge has been met by offering counseling and coaching to students so they will persist and complete the training.