

Collaborative Partnerships: El Centro (Dallas County Community College District)

We have collaborative relationships with NPower, Skill QUEST, and CitySquare, which represent in excess of \$400,000 of in-kind contributions used to leverage Walmart Brighter Future 2.0 contributions.

NPower provides computer information technology training and job placement to veterans. NPower's program includes mentoring from business leaders, internships, and career development workshops as well as employment assistance. To date, NPower has referred over 150 participants to the program, two-thirds of which have completed information technology training. Of the 100 who have completed training, 80 percent have secured full-time employment and an additional 8 percent have obtained a part-time position in the information technology field. This partner currently provides a seven-week paid internship and recruiting assistance for all program completer's. The case management and employment assistance provided to veterans by this organization has been an extremely crucial component to success.

Skill QUEST assists in bringing individuals into the program that are in need of the services offered at El Centro. Their mission—lifting unemployed and underemployed North Texans out of poverty through education and multidimensional support tailored to each student's circumstances—compliments the goals of our program. This partner refers participants to our program who are seeking certifications in the health and welding career pathways.

CitySquare is a 501(C)3 nonprofit corporation that provides social services to special populations. Through its WorkPaths program, CitySquare will partner with El Centro College to provide recruitment, case management, job placement assistance, and soft skills training to program participants. Training is conducted onsite at the Opportunity Center, which is also the home of the Texas Workforce Commission, Literacy for Texas, AmeriCorps, and a food pantry. This partnership allows the program to serve students within the community and provides them access to the additional resources which eliminate barriers to success.