



Delta College receives funding by the Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project through the League for Innovation in the Community College

October 28, 2013

Delta College is one of 12 community colleges nationwide selected to participate in the Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project, which is supported by a \$3.5 million grant from the Walmart Foundation to the League for Innovation in the Community College.

Delta College Corporate Services will receive \$233,333 through the League's Walmart Brighter Futures grant to provide training and services over the next 2.5 years to move low-income, low-skill individuals into middle-skill positions in the workforce. The training will focus on jobs requiring 21st century skills in an effort to provide a promising career future.

Delta College Corporate Services will partner with Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! to provide low-income adults and older youth the skills necessary to obtain middle-skill jobs and become financially self-sufficient. Initial efforts will focus on Nexteer Automotive, a global leader in advanced steering and driveline systems, which plans additional hiring within the next six months. There are also smaller manufacturers who have announced new investments, which may also require new employees.

In addition to specific job training, individuals will receive career counseling and job acquisition skills such as job search, résumé writing and interviewing techniques. The project will assure that program completers build confidence, document their skills and help them communicate effectively to employers.

In announcing the grants, League President and CEO, Dr. Gerardo E. de los Santos, expressed confidence that the Walmart Brighter Futures project will have a profound and positive impact beyond the 12 colleges. "The Walmart Foundation's Brighter Futures 2.0 grant will lead to best practices that will expand the capacity of community colleges to enhance middle-skill job training opportunities. The League will be delighted to share the work of the twelve colleges with colleges around the country," said de los Santos.

Dr. Jean Goodnow, President of Delta College, said, "We are excited to be selected to participate in this project. We look forward to working with our national League of Innovation colleges and our local business and community partners to improve the condition of working families through the power of education and training."

"The Walmart Foundation supports programs that provide people with ways to improve their lives through skills training, job readiness, job placement and support services," says Julie Gehrki, Senior Director of the Walmart Foundation. "We are proud to continue our work with the League for Innovation and expect to help 9,000 workers gain the skills they need for today's job market through this continued effort."

Other community colleges funded were Anne Arundel Community College (MD); Central Piedmont Community College (NC); Cuyahoga Community College (OH); El Centro College, the Dallas County Community College District (TX); Kirkwood Community College (IA); Miami Dade College (FL); Maricopa County Community College District (AZ); Moraine Valley Community College (IL); Santa Fe College (FL); Seattle Community Colleges (WA); and, Sinclair Community College (OH).

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