

## **Impact on Individual and Community: El Centro College (Dallas County Community College District)**

### **Impact on Individual**

We are currently focusing on underserved populations who find themselves in transitional states such as the homeless, ex-offenders, unemployed, underemployed, veterans, and those workers who need to be re-trained. Our program participants range from 18 to 75 years of age. Because of the training, certifications, and practicum experiences offered through the Walmart Brighter Futures Project, many individuals have received wage gains and secured entry-level to mid-level positions in the workforce.

Our partnership with NPower, in combination with WBF 2.0 grant funding, allows us to retrain displaced veterans and help them successfully transition into civilian life.

F. Wimberly was homeless and referred to the program through a program in the Urban League that helps homeless veterans find homes. He served in the Louisiana National Guard before accepting a commission to become an Air Defense Artillery Officer in the United States Army. After completing his obligation to the military, he entered the NPower program and hasn't looked back since. "After returning home, I found out that no one was interested in an ex-PATRIOT Missile System Officer," he said. "Because of NPower, I received my A+ certification and ServiceNow Administrator training and now am a full-time employee at AmerisourceBergen."

### **Impact on Community**

The program is putting employable people back into the workforce. We are delivering educated individuals that have background knowledge in the field of study, which reduces employers' basic level training costs. We are also giving individuals the courage to seek higher education by offering programs with non-credit coursework that mirrors credit courses work. This gives our program participants a head start in pursuing an advanced degree.

We offer instruction that allows participants the opportunity to gain a portable credential that demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The assessment that participants must successfully complete measures real-world skills that employers believe are critical to job success.

In addition to introducing skilled workers into the economy, the program has encouraged students to give back to the community. Many of our students complete community service hours through voluntary participation in nonprofit initiatives. Sherry Stanley and Shelia Snow completed the community health care certification and now are working toward their certifications as Community Health Care Instructors by completing over 1,000 hours each of community service through the delivery of free diabetic education course to the community.