

Impact on Individual and Community: Miami Dade College

Impact on Individual

The Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project impacts the lives of individuals in different ways according to their needs and wants and the time they have to satisfy them. The program assists them in their efforts to attain better skills suited for the 21st century job market, which demands higher education and abilities. This program concentrates on identifying and removing a broad range of barriers by helping participants with orientation, assessment of skills and abilities, classes and workshops with counseling and support services, basic language skills, computer training, education, counseling, personal financial skills, customer service, financial aid information, job readiness activities, résumé and interview skill-building, connections to other college programs, volunteering, and job placement.

These participants attain self-sufficiency through preparation, placement assistance, and supportive services such as transportation, mental and health program information, and referrals to other community programs. The program objective is to provide the opportunity for individuals with low-income and low skills to overcome situations hampering their progress in life.

In a job market which demands education beyond high school, it is obvious that job seekers will have to assess their current situations and seek additional schooling. Some individuals resist the idea of going back to school until they fully realize that they will be counted in a supportive system in which they have more choices, higher earnings potential, improved chances to retain a job, and greater opportunities for promotion. They eventually understand that performance, job quality, attitude, motivation, better communication skills, and general preparation with the right skills will determine their quality of life and financial independence.

Impact on Community

The WBF 2.0 Project is focused on a broad set of supportive services aimed at helping participants attain self-sufficiency and better quality of life. By reaching their goals, these individuals are also improving their community.

The program has developed several areas of assistance for individuals in the community, serving more than college students in need of support to improve retention and completion. The WBF 2.0 Project helps the community when a service is also accessible to the numerous individuals who have been living off welfare and see no way out of it, and assists participants who are homeless or about to become homeless, as well as those who have served jail time or have background issues hampering their chances of getting a job. This program helps in the recuperation of a workforce through training, education, job search skills, and ancillary support. The community is gaining with the project's efforts to support, recuperate, and rehabilitate individuals that have been left behind for a wide range of reasons. Participants have opportunities to receive counseling, new skills, transportation assistance, personal financial education, housing, job search skills, and information on approaches to gain better job positions.

The impact in the community is measured by enhanced quality of life of the individuals and their families, and, by extension, this educated and informed workforce makes the community a better place to live. Additionally, participants become aware of the importance of education, and transmit that opinion to their children. The community in turn becomes more prepared and supportive of education

and learns to overcome barriers curtailing their success. In the end, participants and their families are more likely to get and retain financial independence with education, which in turn helps to reduce inequities and create even more opportunities.