

Impact on Individual and Community: Maricopa Community Colleges

Impact on Individual

As low-income adults in our community choose to pursue training and education that leads to middle-skill employment, they face a number of challenges. Tuition payments on enrollment are problematic for some as other sources of financial aid may not immediately be available.

College student services personnel also report that although students may complete coursework and training, they often do not take the certification exams that would give them workforce entry credentials. One barrier is the cost of the exams; for low-income adults this can be a significant barrier. Costs for exams and prep materials are not usually covered by financial aid, which can leave students in a bind. With Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project support, individuals can achieve that final, often difficult, step. With credentials in hand, Brighter Futures participants are prepared to enter a new world of employment and a career to support themselves and their families.

Impact on Community

Our student community in Brighter Futures has a large number of underrepresented, low-income students who desire knowledge, skills, and competencies that will lead them not to just a job but to a career. More than 50 percent of the students enrolled in the Brighter Futures program come from traditionally underrepresented groups and more than 60 percent are women. The typical age of a Brighter Futures participant at Maricopa Community Colleges is 28, with a significant number of adults in their 30s and 40s as well. The program directly impacts this often underserved segment, providing opportunities for individuals to become educated and fully functional members of their communities.