Program Summary: Central Piedmont Community College

Central Piedmont Community College's STEM Career Connection initiative focuses on providing training that will prepare students for middle-skill jobs in high-demand industries. Participants who earn certificates and degrees in these training areas will be eligible for middle-skill employment opportunities in the Charlotte region.

CPCC currently offers two training programs as part of the Brighter Futures funded STEM Career Connection initiative:

1. CompTIA A+ Certification/Computer Technology Integration: Students in this training track take a series of courses that prepare them to earn the CompTIA A+ Certification. Students who complete this training track are prepared for middle-skill IT jobs including help desk technician, computer hardware technician, desktop operating system support, and server hardware and software technician.
2. Cisco Certified Network Administrator (CCNA) Certification/Computer Technology Integration: Students in this training track take a series of courses that prepare them to earn the Cisco Certified Network Administrator Certificate. Students who complete this training track are prepared for middle-skill IT jobs including network technician, network support technician, and network analyst.
3. CPCC included additional industry certifications in its work plan with support from the League of an additional $22,820 in grant funds. CPCC was able to include certification fees for students pursuing third party credentials in flexography, horticulture, transportation and safety, and medical careers.

In addition to receiving middle-skill job training, students are provided a voucher to cover the exam cost for a national certification, have access to CPCC's many wrap around support services, and receive career services and job placement assistance. At CPCC, students have the opportunity to enroll in a workplace learning opportunity (Co-op) which provides them with hands-on, practical work experience. Through the summer of 2015, approximately 60 students will have participated in a Co-op.

> I take this moment to convey my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude for your continued support of the Brighter Futures Grant Program and express its importance to me personally. Apart from the traditional curriculum, the grant program incorporates many otherwise peripheral services for its students—resources such as resume and cover letter creation, interviewing skills development, and employment assistance are built in and actively promoted by faculty. The generous funding you provide removes any financial obstacle to achieving the various levels of certification sought after by information technology hiring managers. The faculty attention given to each grant student is invaluable. I truly feel that the program directs its participants in all areas necessary for success. I chose to participate in the grant program because, for me, it offers the most direct and effective pathway to gainful and meaningful employment in the IT industry. With work-study opportunities, cooperative education requirements, and intensive lab sessions, it is a program of development and study ensuring students are prepared to enter into their own successful futures.

> Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project Student

> I would like to thank you for the valuable information that was taught through the seminars that I had the pleasure to attend through CPCC. The resources that you shared helped me to land a

job as a Desktop Support Engineer for Union County Public Schools. I look forward to a great career in the IT industry! This is only the beginning! The information you taught was right on time as I was seeking immediate employment. Thanks again for everything!

Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project Student