

Program Summary: El Centro (Dallas County Community College District)

El Centro Colleges's Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 program's focus is to train or retain financially challenged individuals, giving them the skills necessary to successfully thrive in the current workplace while contributing to their self-efficiency. We have implemented assessment tools within our program to emphasize participants' strengths and weaknesses. Instruction and learning tools are customized to accommodate participants' proficiency levels and strengthen those areas that pose challenges to content and skill mastery. We also offer specialized courses that prepare participants for entering or re-entering the workforce by simulating workplace scenarios and dissecting participants' actions and reactions to these topics. Through these courses we offer mock job interviews and create resumes and cover letters. We also address time management, decision making, and problem solving. There are five primary career pathways offered with embedded stackable credentials that train participants in high demand occupation fields. These career pathways range in duration and complexity. However, during and after completion of the programs, we offer resources to participants to assist in obtaining employment.

Susana Delacruz, wrote,

I am writing this note to inform you that Scottish Rite hired me to be part of their interpreters team, full time and all benefits; they offered me \$20.00 an hour! I think this offer was mainly based on the certificates and education I received through the Walmart Brighter Futures grant.

The grant funded Ms. Delacruz's completion of the community health care certification and practicum through Children's Hospital.

Jorge Colunga, went on to receive his associate degree in biology in May 2015 after completing the community health care certification through the Walmart Brighter Futures Project. Mr. Colunga is currently employed at Children's Hospital as an emergency services technician and volunteers at Santa Clara Regional Community Center.

Erica Caraway, obtained employment as a medical assistant at Heart Consultants of North Texas after completing the Certified Nurse Aid certificate.

Jeremy Rogers, a native of Dallas, TX, served 10 years in the United States Marine Corps. While in the Technology Service Corp., he was able to obtain his CompTiA+ certification and completed the ServiceNow Administration course. His apprenticeship was with United Surgical Partners International where he was able to use his ServiceNow training on a daily basis. Jeremy was offered a full-time position with United Surgical Partners International as an IT Support Specialist.