

## **Program Summary: Maricopa Community Colleges**

The Walmart Brighter Futures program had the foresight and flexibility to step in and help low-income adults at the critical juncture during which they are trying to achieve their job-ready credentials. At the Maricopa Community Colleges financial resources are targeted to cover tuition stipends, the cost of prep work, and the certification exams.

In the Maricopa County Community College District, Rio Salado College, Mesa Community College, the Maricopa Skill Center, and the Southwest Skill Center are offering a wide variety of credit and non-credit training options to prepare students for middle-skill jobs. These programs range from professional childcare to medical billing and coding to welding. Across our college district, a total of 16 different programs participate in the Walmart Brighter Futures initiative, offering tuition scholarships and reimbursement for certification exams.

The Walmart Brighter Futures grant has helped individuals to obtain a High School Equivalency Diploma and to begin their college and career pathway by providing the opportunity to earn the following middle-skill certifications:

- National Career Readiness Certificate
- Academic Certificate in Early Childhood Education
- CompTIA certifications
- Cisco Certified Network Associate certifications

At Rio Salado College, while in the Walmart Brighter Futures program, Brenda, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) student, obtained her High School Equivalency Diploma, earned her Academic Certificate in Early Childhood Education, had two employment offers at early childhood facilities, and gave birth to her third child. All of these accomplishments were made in nine short months.