

## **Impact on Individual and Community: Seattle Colleges**

### **Impact on Individual**

The Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 project has helped students address many of the academic and non-academic skills critical for success throughout their college experience and beyond. The Competency Documentation Tool, for example, helps students identify and articulate the skills and competencies gained through their training programs, and ensure they are prepared to discuss their experiences with potential employers. This bridges the gap between training and job attainment to ensure students can advocate for themselves and their abilities, on the road to living wage jobs.

Additionally, we have recently hired a new Industry Partnership Navigator, who will work simultaneously with employers to identify job opportunities and skill needs, as well as with students, to provide wraparound support and navigation services. Through the position, a resource document will also be developed to map out the navigation support across the three-college district, to determine the programs and student populations being well-served, and to identify where gaps in service exist.

Lastly, students' ability to complete training at our colleges in a timely, cost-efficient manner is a key concern. Given the rigors of a health care training program, the foundational health care bridge program ensures that students are better prepared to decide on, commit to, and succeed in health care programs. The program provides a first look at the health care field, allowing students to make informed decisions that save them time and money over the course of their training.

### **Impact on Community**

The Career Hub tool for Seattle Colleges job seekers is allowing our colleges to better engage with and respond to the needs of employers. Recently, business cards have been developed to promote Career Hub to both students and employers. Work is also underway to load students automatically into Career Hub immediately upon enrolling at one of our colleges, to ensure the tool is deeply embedded into the Seattle Colleges culture.

Through the Career Hub website, we are able to better align the needs of employers with the skills and training provided to students. Career Hub also promotes opportunities for employers to get involved on campus through career fairs, classroom visits, mock interviews, and more, establishing a sustained relationship with students and increasing the likelihood of employment following students' middle-skill training experience. The aim is to be increasingly responsive to the needs of local industries that will, in turn, help our community thrive. The increased employer engagement made possible by the Career Hub tool moves us closer to this goal.