

Impact on Individual and Community: Sinclair Community College

Impact on Individual

Walmart Brighter Future 2.0 is impacting individual lives on a daily basis through authentic conversations with wide-eyed new students attempting to explore and define their professional path. Coaches in the Center for Student Success take time with each student to identify their motivation for pursuing training, define their short and long term goals, and connect them to credit and non-credit opportunities both through Sinclair and its partner organizations. This has allowed all partners to offer a wider variety of opportunities and meet each individual need by connecting students to offerings that align with their true interests.

Individual impact is significant when we witness a newly divorced, single mother in tears who is worried about how she'll support her family complete training and return to share news of her newly acquired job. Or, watch the young father who has worked for years in low paying retail jobs complete training and secure employment with a large local bank.

That individual impact is also seen in the confidence that builds in each participant. We witness their initial intent of seeking non-credit credentials expand into a larger desire to continue learning and developing by pursuing more training or taking steps to enroll in a degree program.

By combining efforts and resources, the grant has provided larger connectivity with the training partners; expanded each organization's network; and allowed for greater access to more training, development, and employability for our prospective student.

The grant encouraged us to comprehensively track employment data, and upon review, taught us that 80 percent of our students lack skills and employment opportunities that could greatly improve their college success and persistence.

Impact on Community

Through Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 grant support, we have enhanced existing partnerships with local employers, community human service organizations, and educational partners, and expanded to include new ones not originally identified in our grant. The focused relationship between the Center for Student Success and Workforce Development has formalized partnerships with employers and community organizations, resulting in both an increasing number of student referrals to grant-related programs and an expanded sharing with community partners of related, relevant data. We are increasing the pool of skilled and credentialed individuals in the community and helping to fill previously unfilled gaps in local business and industry. More students are prepared to enter the workforce with expanded skill sets leading to better paying jobs.

We continue to offer short-term Call Center/Customer Certification classes, endorsed and supported by local companies seeking to hire our graduates. Graduates earn two certificates and three credit hours in business. Within 10 days of completing their training, two graduates of April's class successfully found employment. Likewise, completers of the college introductory machining class, STEP II, earn two certificates along with college credit and are readily hired by local manufacturing and engineering companies.

Siloed in the past, Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 grant participation has resulted in a more seamless and, thus, a more effective relationship between Sinclair and WIA. The increased sharing of data is essential to gauge our impact on the community as well as student success. Better understanding of services and the identification of common goals has led to the expanded sharing of best practices and opportunities.