

Success Stories: Anne Arundel Community College

The Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project enables graduates to seek employment as a table games dealer at casinos anywhere. This high-demand job area provides a middle-income wage with a long-term career pathway. Through our work with this project, the college continues to expand the partnership with Maryland Live! Casino, one of the nation's largest and most successful casinos. Project curriculum was developed in collaboration with the casinos and courses are taught by current casino managers hired by the college. Individual employment auditions for students are conducted right in the college's casino labs at the completion of training, bringing the employer to the classroom from the beginning to the end of the experience. Maryland Live! Casino fully supports the Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project training and links their employment webpage to the project's website.

Recruitment events are held regularly and continue to generate a high response rate from prospective students and the community. An online orientation to the casino industry and the casino dealer position, developed in collaboration with the employer casinos and the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission, is included in all recruitment events. The orientation provides prospective students with important information on the requirements and expectations of a casino dealer prior to enrollment in the training program.

Retention rates are improving for grant students. Prescreening testing and interviewing result in students being placed in the right program for them and/or providing them individualized assistance. The contextualized adult basic skills and employer-directed job readiness training, supported by wraparound support services, has also demonstrated success increasing student persistence through completion. Digital badges mark student progress throughout the program. Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 students have a 20 percent higher rate of retention than general open enrollment students.

AACC acknowledges Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project student success through the Completion Ceremony. The Completion Ceremony provides students with an opportunity to celebrate their achievement with families and friends. The event includes a short program with presentations by college administrators, students, and casino employers followed by a reception. It is a bright, shiny moment for our students and an optimal opportunity to network with casino employers. Event photos are posted on Facebook and the college website.