Success Stories: Kirkwood Community College

One of the core components to Kirkwood's Career Pathway System is Pathway Navigation. Pathway Navigators engage in a continuum of activities and roles that include, but are not limited to: outreach and recruitment, assessment, enrollment, case management, and liaison between and among the student, faculty, community-based organizations, and employers. Pathway Navigators serve as the go-to resource for students and help them get connected to needed services and resources both inside and outside of the institution. They see individuals through from the beginning to the end and serve as student advocates to support their success both in training and employment.

Kirkwood has leveraged diverse resources to support the career pathway system.

PACE Legislation	$798,715	FY2014 Allocation- annual
GAP Tuition Assistance Legislation	$308,971	FY2014 Allocation- annual
League for Innovation Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Grant	$233,333	Aug. 2013 – Nov. 2015
AACC Job Ready, Willing and Able Grant	$150,000	April 2014 – Jan. 2017
Total	**$1,491,019**	

In addition to the funding sources listed above, Kirkwood is committed to partnering with public and private programs and braiding funding around the needs of individuals served. Kirkwood and its partners evaluate shared goals of programs and how funding can be used, and braid resources around applicable individuals to support shared goals and outcomes. For example, Kirkwood partners with the Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) program. Individuals that enroll in the Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project and receiving food assistance are eligible to receive support services through the FAE&T program. We co-enroll students in these programs to ensure that we leverage the program resources first. Another example is the GAP Tuition Assistance Program. This program provides tuition assistance to individuals who pursue short-term training that is not eligible for federal financial aid. While the GAP program can provide tuition assistance, it can't provide support services such as transportation. This is another example of how we co-enroll students to help them access needed support services to complete training.