Who FastForward Serves

FastForward students aren’t your average college students. Our students are older, with the average age of 35, and 86% of them are new to community college.

Over 43% of FastForward students are minorities.

Workforce Credential Grant students are more than two times as likely to receive SNAP/TANF benefits than other college students.

Over 60% of FastForward students have dependents.

The Impact of FastForward Credentials

According to the Virginia Employment Commission, by 2026, there are expected to be 2.6M middle-skilled jobs in Virginia – jobs that require some training, but not a four-year degree. There is a skills gap in Virginia’s workforce. FastForward is continuing to bridge the gap.

Paying for Success

1/3 paid for by the student

1/3 paid for by grant upon credential attainment

1/3 paid for by grant upon training completion

52,900+ credentials earned since 2016

$11,746 On average, students saw an $11,746 increase in wages.

“The community college system is uniquely poised to handle training and education more effectively than anyone.”

– David Peterson, Executive Director Solar Hands-on Instructional Network of Excellence (SHINE)

January 2024

The FastForward data mentioned herein represent students funded by the New Economy Workforce Credentials Grant as well as other public and private sources.
Outcomes and Results
This program model focuses on success from the moment a student connects with the college. Following FastForward training, a majority of our students have full-time jobs with benefits and better work schedules.

FastForward students are finding satisfaction in their careers post-credential.

- 92% say their credential is something employers want.
- 81% are satisfied with their work schedule.
- 86% are satisfied with their job stability.
- 71% are satisfied with their pay.

Quality of Life Enhancements

- 78% of graduates have paid vacation.
- 78% of graduates have employer-paid medical insurance.
- 81% of graduates are satisfied with their job duties.

Average Wage Increase by Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Average Wage Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>+ $14,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>+ $22,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>+ $10,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>+ $19,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics &amp; Transportation</td>
<td>+ $12,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled Trades</td>
<td>+ $17,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding &amp; Manufacturing</td>
<td>+ $19,303</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The VCCS Advantage

"Luckily, the staff is here to help you achieve your goals. Because of the great instructors and workers in the program, in addition to their support, I have gained competency in my desired field and am able to pursue the career I chose."

– Aaron Winfree, FastForward graduate

"[Going back to school] was the best thing I've ever done, because I absolutely love my job. I look forward to going to work, and I haven't felt that way in a long time."

– Melinda Mutter, FastForward graduate

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