SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Seattle **CENTRAL** Community College

NORTH Seattle Community College

SOUTH Seattle Community College

SVI Seattle Vocational Institute

•

Georgetown Campus

NewHolly Learning Center

Seattle Maritime Academy

Wood Technology Center

Washington District VI

1500 Harvard Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122-3803
206.934.4100
Fax 206.934.3894

seattlecolleges.edu

NEWS

Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project funds job skills training at Seattle Community Colleges

Oct. 17, 2013

SEATTLE – The Seattle Community Colleges are among 12 community colleges across the country selected to participate in the Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project, which is supported by a $3.5 million grant from the Walmart Foundation to the League for Innovation in the Community College (League).

The project aims to provide low-income adults and older youth the skills they need to obtain middle-skill jobs, enabling them to become financially self-sufficient. In addition, it is designed to help them document those skills and communicate them effectively to employers.

Over the next two and a half years, the League will help Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project colleges across the United States to develop programs and services to move low-income, low-skill individuals into middle-skill jobs. The League will disseminate best practices from the project to other community colleges throughout the country.

In Seattle, the grant will assist up to 1,500 students preparing for Healthcare and Manufacturing jobs through activities such as program curriculum updates and enhanced job search support.

The Seattle Community Colleges serve nearly 50,000 students every year at North Seattle, South Seattle and Seattle Central Community Colleges, and at Seattle Vocational Institute. The Walmart Brighter Futures 2.0 Project colleges funded include: Anne Arundel Community College (Md.); Central Piedmont Community College (N.C.); Cuyahoga Community College (Ohio); Delta College (Mich.); El Centro College - Dallas County Community College District (Texas); Kirkwood Community College (Iowa); Maricopa Community Colleges (Ariz.); Miami Dade College (Fla.); Moraine Valley Community College (Ill.); Santa Fe College (Fla.); and Sinclair Community College (Ohio).

The Walmart Brighter Futures project will have a profound and positive impact beyond the 12 colleges, said League President and CEO Dr. Gerardo E. de los Santos. "As with an earlier project funded by the Walmart Foundation, Brighter Futures 2.0 will lead to best practices that will expand the capacity of community colleges to enhance middle-skill job training opportunities," he said. "The League will be delighted to share the work of the twelve colleges with colleges around the country." The Seattle Colleges were also members of the first Walmart Brighter Futures 1.0 Project, funded in 2008.

Each selected college will receive up to $233,333 to provide training and services that will qualify selected individuals for middle-skill positions in the workforce. In an effort to provide a promising career future, training will focus on jobs requiring 21st century skills and will include career counseling and job acquisition skills such as job search, résumé writing, and interviewing techniques.

Seattle Community Colleges Chancellor Jill Wakefield acknowledged the Walmart Foundation, the leadership of the League, and the importance of training that will help fill jobs to keep our region economically vital. "Seattle needs these skilled workers," she said. "We look forward to making a difference here and across the country, because we all benefit when everyone has a lifetime of opportunity."

more –

"The Walmart Foundation supports programs that provide people with ways to improve their lives through skills training, job readiness, job placement and support services," said Julie Gehrki, senior director of the Walmart Foundation. "We are proud to continue our work with the League for Innovation and expect to help 9,000 workers gain the skills they need for today's job market through this continued effort." ■■■

About the League for Innovation in the Community College

The League for Innovation in the Community College is an international organization dedicated to catalyzing the community college movement. The League hosts conferences and institutes, develops web resources, conducts research, produces publications, provides services, and leads projects and initiatives with more than 800 member colleges, 160 corporate partners, and a host of other government and nonprofit agencies in a continuing effort to make a positive difference for students and communities. Information about the League and its activities is available at www.league.org.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to helping people live better through philanthropic efforts. By operating globally and giving back locally, Walmart is uniquely positioned to address the needs of the communities it serves and make a significant social impact within its core areas of giving: Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Career Opportunity and Women's Economic Empowerment. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are leading the fight against hunger in the United States with a $2 billion commitment through 2015. Walmart has donated more than one billion meals to those in need across the country. To learn more about Walmart's giving, visit foundation.walmart.com.

CONTACT

Veronica Wade | Project Director | 206 934.3204 | Veronica.Wade@seattlecolleges.edu

Patricia Paquette |District Communications Director |206 934.4105 | Patricia.Paquette@seattlecolleges.edu