



COLLEGE COUNT\$

EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

THE ARKANSAS CAREER PATHWAYS INITIATIVE: PHASE ONE RESEARCH RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHICS







In order to qualify, participants must be a custodial parent eligible for public assistance through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and be at 250% or below the federal poverty level.




THE AVERAGE CPI PARTICIPANT IS:

- ✓ 31 years of age
- ✓ Female (89% of participants)
- ✓ A single parent
- ✓ 65% of CPI students are White
- ✓ 30% are African American and 5% are Hispanic, Asian, or Native American

SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS

-  Need help with transportation
-  Need help with childcare
-  Lack basic skills, requiring remediation to be successful in college
-  Vast majority are first generation college students who lack role models to show them how to successfully negotiate higher education

SUPPORT FROM CPI

-  Personalized case management, tutoring and mentoring
-  Financial support as needed including assistance with tuition and books, and when appropriate childcare vouchers or gas cards.
-  Individual counseling





The Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI)

The Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) is managed by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education at 25 community and technical colleges across the state. It has provided case management, education, and training to more than 30,000 Arkansans since 2006. CPI helps low-income parents complete degrees and certificates leading to high-demand higher-wage jobs. Funds for the program come from federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) appropriations through the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

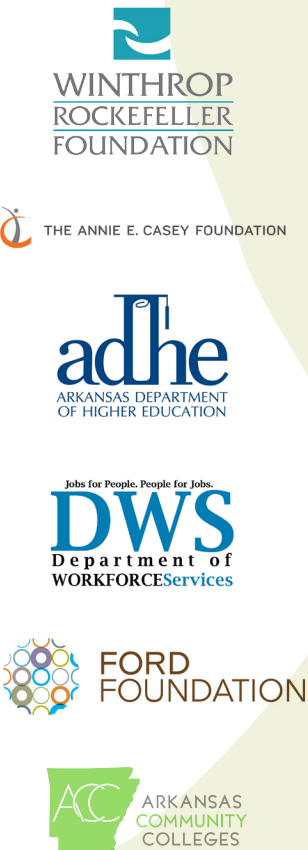
College Count\$: Evidence of Impact

College Count\$ is an external evaluation which is measuring the student success, social impacts, and economic benefits to low-income families resulting from this investment of federal TANF dollars into the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative. The study compares income, education, and employment outcomes of CPI participants with non-participants – to determine whether the program is successfully lifting Arkansas families out of poverty and providing a return on investment to the state.

KEY:

-  Arkansas Community College student participating in CPI
-  Arkansas Community College student not participating in CPI
-  Nationwide Community College student not participating in CPI
-  TANF recipients not enrolled in Arkansas Community College

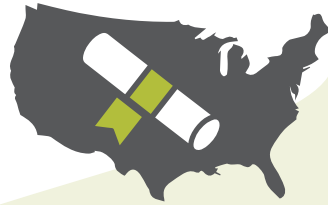
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EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES



National studies report degree completion is directly correlated with **improved employment, higher lifetime earnings and social benefits.**

The Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) has **significantly increased educational outcomes and achievement** for low-income participants when compared to their peers:



The CPI graduation rate is even more **impressive** compared to completion rates nationwide.



Successful rates of program graduation and completion have **continued to improve over time.**



ECONOMIC OUTCOMES

CPI graduates **earned significantly more** than their low-income TANF peers.

CPI graduates who enrolled in 2009 earned **\$2,600 more** in their first year than their matched TANF counterparts from the same region and field of employment, despite having earned similar incomes prior to entry into the program.

The wage bump increased to **\$3,100 per year more** for all CPI participants who enrolled in 2011, compared to income levels of matched TANF recipients.

In the Allied Health and Education employment sector which employs 60% of all CPI graduates and includes high demand nursing fields, CPI graduates who enrolled in 2011 earned an average of **\$3,176 more per year** than their matched TANF counterparts according to state employment records.

In early years of the CPI program, first year CPI students earned an average of \$6,400 less than their community college peers who entered the workforce the same year.



CPI graduates tend to be single parents who are far more likely than their community college peers to initially work part-time rather than full-time. Low-income CPI participants often start work at a lower rung on the career ladder, but over time they catch up to their peers as they progress along the career pathway and earn additional credentials.