FASTFORWARD’S FIRST FIVE YEARS
Closing the skills gap in Virginia

About FastForward
In 2016, the General Assembly codified the New Economy Workforce Credential Grant program to create and sustain a supply of credentialed workers for Virginia’s most high-demand occupations. Virginia’s Community Colleges were charged with closing the skills gap, making training more accessible and affordable and, ultimately, increasing the interest in these vital training programs.

Impact & ROI
Through the training at Virginia’s Community Colleges, students earn credentials that lead to high-demand careers.

FastForward Program Annual Growth

- **93%** Program completion rate
- **32,395+** credentials earned

FastForward graduates are working in Virginia and earning their wages right here in the Commonwealth.

### Return on Investment

- **2.6B** in wages in Virginia.
- **55M** investment.
- **24,310** FastForward completers employed in Virginia.
- **17.5K** Unique Virginia employers of FastForward completers.
- **$925M** earned by FastForward graduates in FY 2021.

Data presented in this fact sheet represents data from students who completed FastForward training between 2017-2021.
**Outcomes and Results**

Our goal is to have dedicated FastForward career coaches at each campus whose focus is on student success from the moment a student reaches out to enroll, to the moment they start their first job. 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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93%</td>
<td>93% say their credential is something employers want.</td>
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<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83% are satisfied with their job schedule.</td>
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<tr>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84% are satisfied with their job stability.</td>
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<tr>
<td>72%</td>
<td>72% are satisfied with their salary/wage.</td>
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**Building on Success**

Virginia Infrastructure Academy (VIA), which represents dozens of FastForward-eligible training programs, was highlighted by the White House in its Infrastructure Talent Pipeline Challenge. The VIA has the goal of training 35,000 workers in the next five years.

"FastForward was the best thing I could have ever done because I could get in, get it done, get into the field and start my life off. Without FastForward, I would still be looking for temporary jobs, working job to job."

Darian Coles, Tidewater Community College, Welding

"The FastForward program definitely made it feasible to attend the school to get a better career that I thought fit me better."

Barbara McGowan, Germanna Community College, Heavy Equipment Operator

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**Financial Growth**

After FastForward

63% of graduates state they are financially better off because of their training.

83% say that in five years, they will be financially better off because of their training.

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