



FastForward

CREDENTIALS FOR A CAREER THAT MATTERS



What is FastForward?

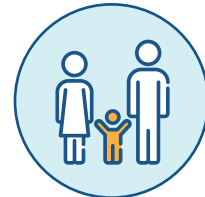
FastForward launched in 2016 as a pay-for-performance, accelerated career training program that prepares students to obtain third-party, industry-recognized credentials. Catering to adult learners, **the average age of students in FastForward is 34**, and **90% of FastForward students have not been enrolled at one of Virginia's Community Colleges** in the last 15 years.



Half of FastForward students served are from **underrepresented populations**.



FastForward students are more than **two times as likely** to receive SNAP/TANF benefits than other college students.



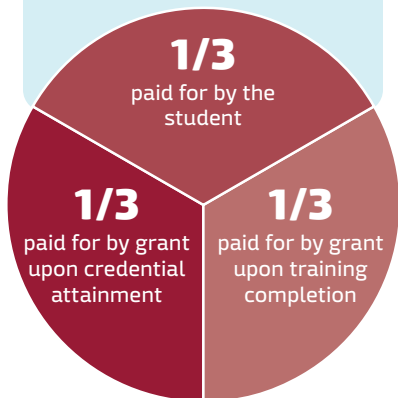
Over 58% of FastForward students have dependents.



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



64,170 credentials earned since 2016.



\$15,958 On average, students saw a \$15,958 increase in wages.

KEY COMMUNITY PARTNER

“[Community colleges] partner with communities and employers to help build a talent pipeline for that area's strategic sectors by training potential employees and upskilling existing ones. They are key partners.”

– Tom Barkin, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
2024 Virginia Education & Workforce Conference Remarks



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Outcomes and Results

This program model focuses on success from the moment a student connects with the college. FastForward has a **94% program completion rate** and **70% credential attainment rate**. Following training, a majority of students have **full-time jobs with benefits and better work schedules**.

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

91%

of graduates say their credential is something employers want.

81%

are satisfied with their work schedule.

85%

are satisfied with their job stability.

72%

are satisfied with their pay.



WORKFORCE WINS

"I joined the welding program because I knew I was eligible for FastForward funding. Through this program, I was able to take courses without financial barriers and got a job in less than six months after starting the program."

- Katie Schoftahl, Welding Graduate
Mountain Gateway Community College

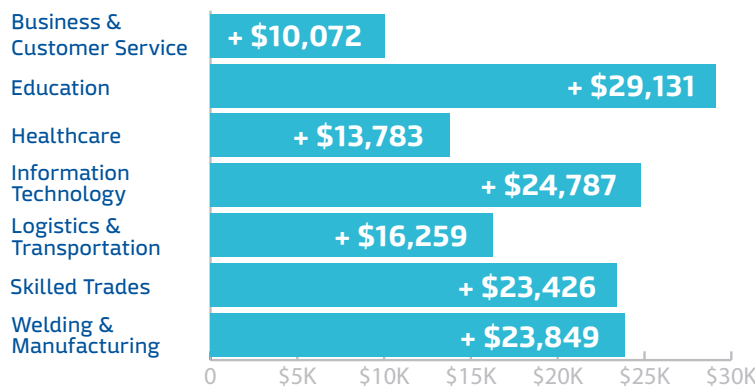


THE VCCS ADVANTAGE

"Finding out that I didn't have to pay for the class was a blessing and the reason I signed up."

- Jamod Winborne, Heavy Equipment Operator graduate
Camp Community College

Average Wage Increase by Industry



Quality of Life Enhancements



77%

of graduates have paid vacation.



74%

of graduates have employer-paid medical insurance.



78%

of graduates are satisfied with their job duties.