



Academic and Employment Training to Ensure Gainful Employment

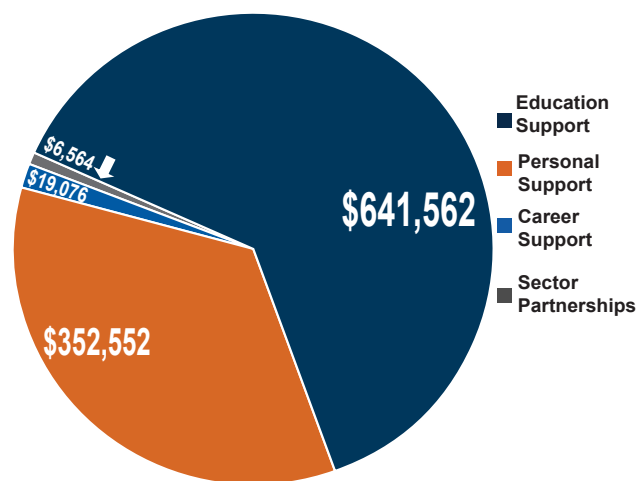
The Pathways for Academic Career and Employment (PACE) program provides funding to community colleges for the development of projects that will lead to gainful, quality, in-state employment for members of target populations by providing them with effective academic and employment training and customized support services. PACE is funded through the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.



Support Provided

- **Educational:** 2,765 students (tuition, books, fees, tutors)
- **Personal:** 688 students (wrap-around support including childcare, uniforms, bus passes)
- **Career:** 766 students (readiness support including employment counseling, career guidance, resumes)

Student Support \$1,124.65 per Participant



Total Expenses FY 2021 \$4,751,473

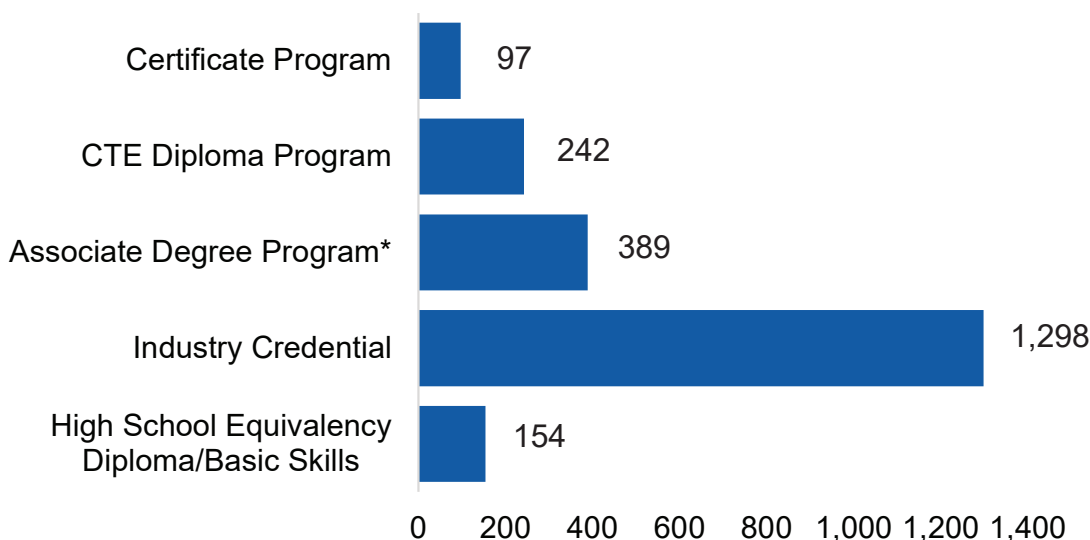


PACE-Supported Programs and Outcomes

Each training program has individual requirements for completion. Participants may start and complete in different years.

Students may be receiving multiple support services at the same time.

Number of PACE-Supported Completions by Program Type





Testimonials

Ruth inquired at WITCC in fall 2019 about how to start on the pathway to become a nurse. After a delay caused by illness, she completed the CNA class in fall 2020 with financial assistance from PACE. During this time, she worked to get her Congo high school transcript translated into English for submission to the Practical Nursing program while raising a new baby. In summer 2021, she was able to transfer credits from Hawkeye Community College, and in fall 2021, she successfully completed Anatomy & Physiology I and Intro to Psychology. As of spring 2022, she is enrolled in Anatomy & Physiology II and Dev Psychology as a working mother who has set the pace of her studies to fit her home life. Her next step will be to work on passing the TEAS assessment for consideration for entry into the Nursing program. Ruth was also recently selected as the WITCC Student of the Month.

Peyton was looking to acquire skills to obtain employment as a truck driver; more specifically, he was looking for a position where he could support his wife and new baby that was on the way. He knew truck driving would be a field where he could acquire work quickly and sustainably. When it came time to take his test for licensure, Southeastern Community College was able to partner with Indian Hills Community College to quickly and efficiently schedule a time before his baby was due to arrive. Once Peyton passed his CDL licensure, the PACE program assisted him with his job search and his career readiness skills; this included sharpening up his cover letter and resume as well as his interview skills. Peyton successfully completed the four-week CDL training program at Southeastern Community College in January 2022. Peyton has always expressed how grateful he is for the PACE program, his instructors and everyone who supported him along the way. He has started a job at Panama Transfer INC in southeast Iowa, and is in training with the company now. Most importantly, Peyton is able to work and be home each night with his wife and new baby.

Tyler is halfway through the Automotive program at DMACC working on obtaining his Automotive Mechanics Technology AAS degree. He is a full-time adult learner looking to advance his skills and obtain a career as an Automotive Mechanic. Due to some unforeseen bills and a rescinded offer for a part-time job, Tyler was in need of assistance to pay critical bills such as rent and a car payment. The choice to keep attending a full-time, rigorous academic schedule versus not attending class to find immediate work to pay his bills was weighing heavily on him. He met with his PACE navigator to discuss these barriers and how he didn't want to sacrifice attending school as he wanted to remain in sequence within the program to graduate on time. PACE funds were used to help Tyler with immediate financial relief to allocate his limited personal funds to go towards paying immediate bills to avoid eviction from his apartment and repossession of his transportation. Tyler has remained in the Automotive Mechanics Technology program in good academic standing and just acquired a part-time job opportunity off campus as well as work study opportunities on campus.

Josh was not receiving adequate pay and found it difficult to support himself and family. Through the direction and support of the GAP and PACE programs, he decided to take the Production Welding certificate program at Iowa Central Community College. While enrolled, one of the required assessments was also a requirement for the HiSED program. After completing the Production Welding certificate, Josh's navigator spoke to him again about the HiSED program and seamlessly connected him to the Adult Education Department where he was able to work during the day and take classes at night. In about six weeks, he received his high school diploma equivalency. He now feels empowered, confident and wants to continue furthering his education. The PACE program and his navigator have followed him each step of the way (noncredit to credit training), making each step less intimidating. He is currently a semester away from completing his Welding Technologies diploma and is also considering continuing on to the Industrial Business degree. Each step in his education journey has gotten him closer to his dream career.