



Impact Report

2016-2018





Virginia's employers need skilled workers. Virginia's Community Colleges have a plan.

Our goal is to "...lead the Commonwealth in the education of its people by tripling the number of credentials awarded for economic vitality and individual prosperity."

— COMPLETE 2021 VCCS STRATEGIC PLAN



1.5M

jobs in Virginia require more than a high school diploma but not a four-year degree



66%

employers who lose productivity and profit because of hiring struggles



The Skilled Workforce Pipeline was at a Trickle

A few years ago, the skills gap in Virginia's workplace prompted action. In the middle of that gap, we found an opportunity.



36M
hours of lost productivity



\$1B
in lost wages

Responding to Business Intelligence and Community Needs

The evolution of a brand

23
town hall meetings

1,500
businesses, civic and elected leaders consulted



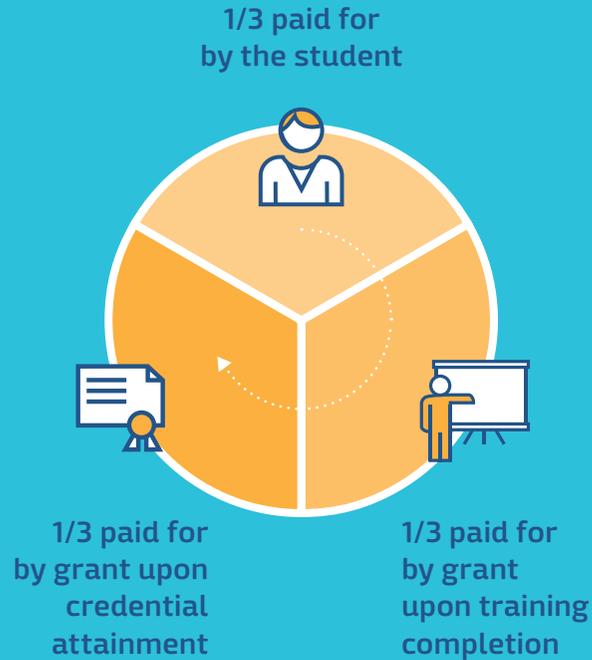
New Economy Workforce Credential Grant



Market Research + Validation



Paying for Success



FastForward Serves Virginia's Most In-Demand Industries

98%

of credentials earned by FastForward graduates were in the top 12 occupations in Virginia



Logistics & Transportation
24%



Healthcare
15%



Welding & Manufacturing
20%



Skilled Trades
32%



IT, Business & Customer Service, Education
9%

Kouri

- Central Virginia Community College
- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant, EKG Technician, Phlebotomy Technician
- Qualified for financial assistance – **spent \$71 out of pocket**
- Working full time as a clinical medical assistant serving uninsured patients

Not Your Typical College Student



average age of FastForward student



2 in 3 FastForward students have dependents



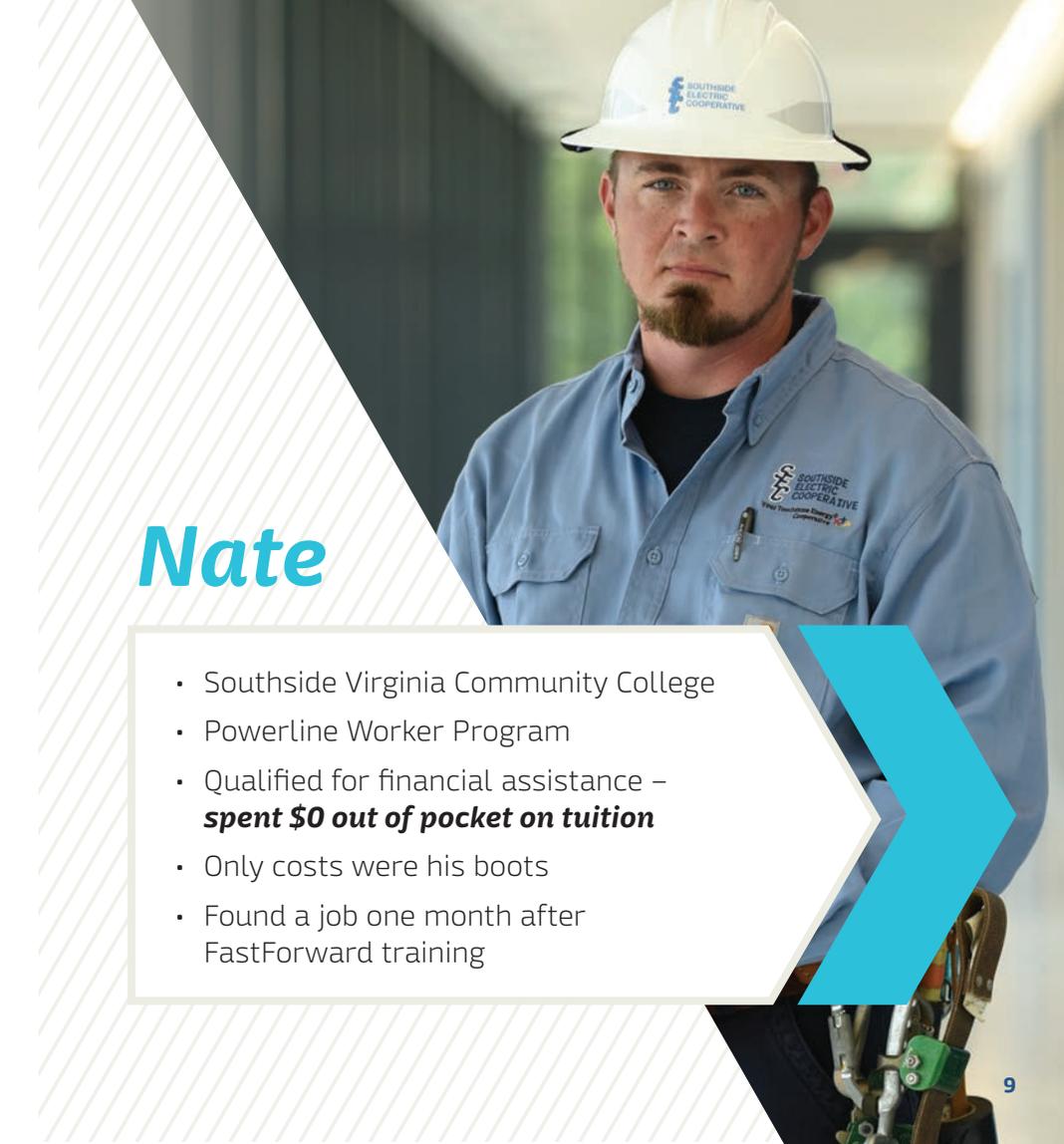
1 in 5 students received public assistance the year before training



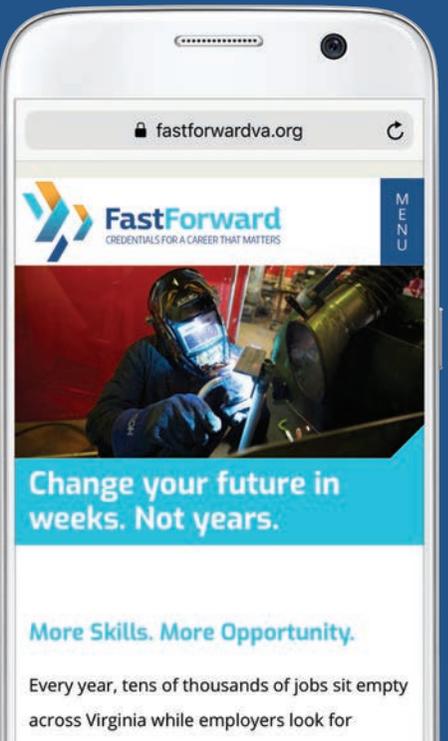
2 in 3 are new to community college

Nate

- Southside Virginia Community College
- Powerline Worker Program
- Qualified for financial assistance – **spent \$0 out of pocket on tuition**
- Only costs were his boots
- Found a job one month after FastForward training



Recruiting Students Where They Are Online



Google Search 



Billboards
Newspapers
Traditional
Outlets

FastForward's Successes



11,138
credentials earned in
the first two years



92%
training
completion rate



25-50%
wage gains earned
by a majority of
FastForward graduates

* Based on state data.

A Skilled Workforce Boosts Virginia's Economy

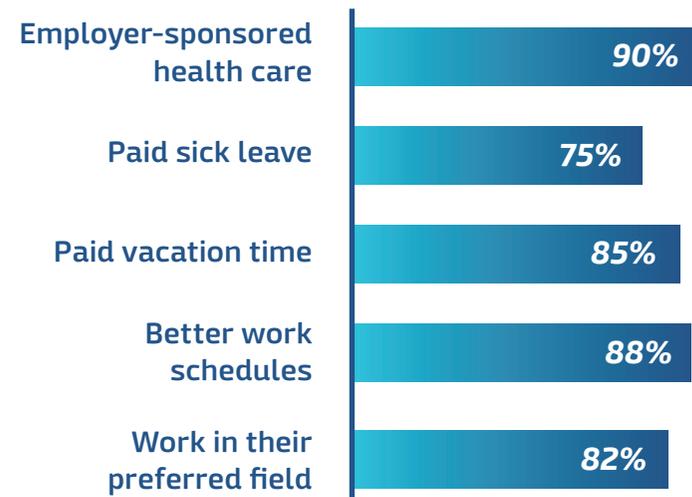
FastForward graduates earn more, and contribute more, to the Commonwealth



** Based on Virginia Employment Commission data.*

Not Just Getting Jobs – Building Careers

FastForward graduates who have found employment after training have received:



** Based on survey responses from nearly 700 students who received a credential, and were employed, after FastForward training.*

Lessons Learned from FastForward

- Pay-for-performance program works.
- FastForward boosts Virginia's bottom line.
- The typical FastForward student gets their information online, which is where outreach efforts are focused.
- FastForward training often leads to quality-of-life improvements.





“Hiring from FastForward has been great. If [students] are going to take the leap and they’re going to do the program, they already have the work ethic.”

— CHUCK RODGERS, S.W. RODGERS COMPANY

FastForward is Helping Virginia Get to Work

FastForward is:

- Meeting business demand
- Assisting with job placement and retention
- Prioritizing high-demand credentials
- Accelerating the path from college to career

FastForward Works, but the Demand Continues

We need to double the Commonwealth’s investment to fully meet the demands and keep growing Virginia’s workforce.



If you're a business that needs to hire skilled workers, and you want to learn how FastForward can help you do that, let's talk. Get started at:

fastforwardva.org/impactreport



FastForward is an initiative of Virginia's Community Colleges. This report is funded with resources from The Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

