



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.

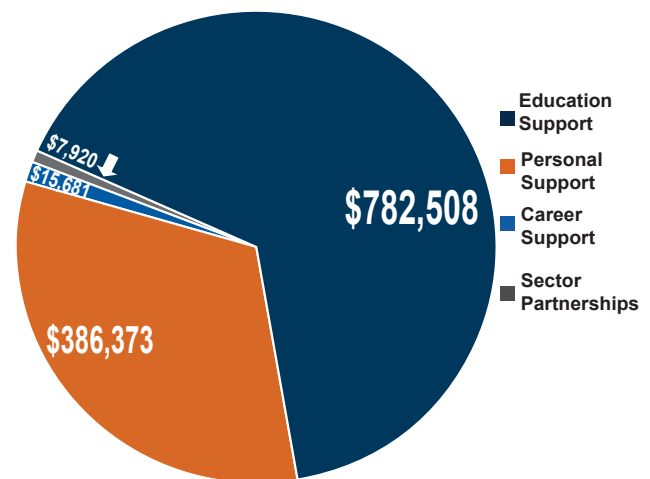


Support Provided

- **Educational:** 2,122 students (tuition, books, fees, tutors)
- **Personal:** 780 students (wrap-around support including childcare, uniforms, bus passes)
- **Career:** 518 students (readiness support including employment counseling, career guidance, resumes)

Student Support

\$1,423.05 per Participant



Total Expenses FY 2022 \$4,866,840

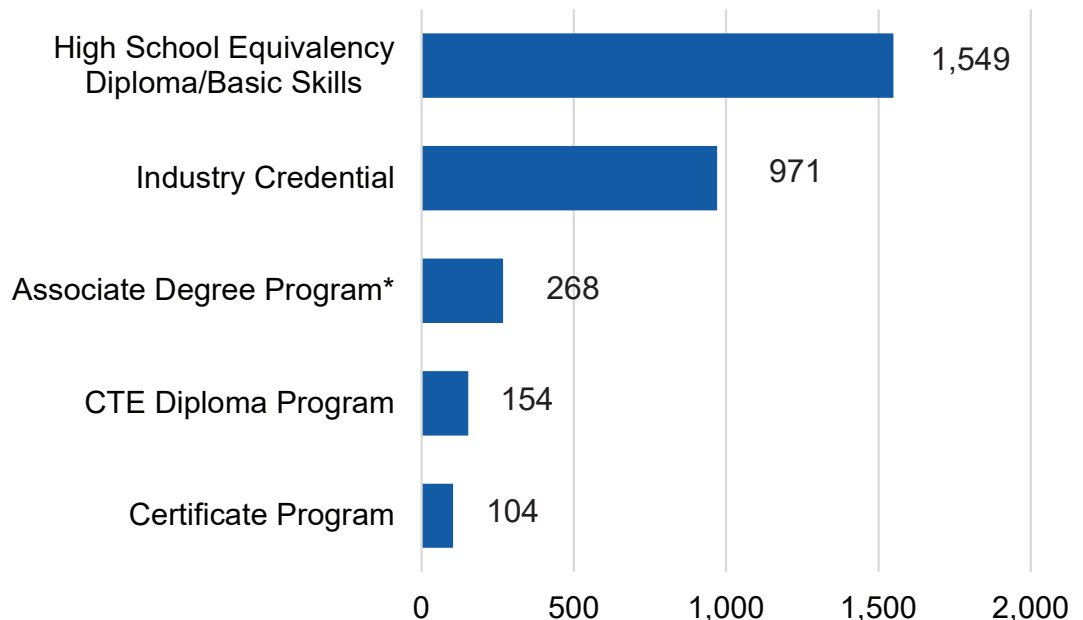


PACE-Supported Programs and Outcomes

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

Kole came to the ICCC Career Navigators looking for a full-time, reliable career. He had previously worked oddball jobs for area farmers, but Kole knew he needed to make a change and find employment that could provide a steady income. He had a grandpa, great-grandpa and uncle who drove semi-trucks, and he knew that the career was steady. He also knew he would have some great opportunities if he earned his Class A CDL. After filling out the application, Kole was eligible for the PACE and GAP programs. GAP paid for all his tuition and fees for the course, and PACE helped with mileage reimbursement to and from class. After 11 weeks of training, Kole began working for New Coop. He is excited to finally have secure income and employment in the career of his dreams.

Safari describes her thoughts and feelings as a new student at HCC as “nerve-wracking, anxious and unsure.” Upon entering her classroom and picking her seat in the Respiratory Therapy Care program, things finally felt real. As a new student, she was not aware of all the obstacles that would arise, balancing her school work along with being a wife and mother of three.

“Financial, mental, and physical struggles were hitting me every time I turned around. It wasn’t until a friend of mine referred me to Leah Beier, a Career Pathway Navigator with the PACE Program, that I felt I finally had access to outside resources that would help me be successful,” stated Williams. The PACE program was able to provide support, including car repair, tutoring, transportation assistance and other supports related to education.

Safari successfully completed the RRT program and is a licensed Respiratory Therapist at MercyOne Hospital. “The PACE Program helped me be free minded from everyday struggles so I could focus on my everyday school work. The program and Leah were nothing but amazing, helping me through my hardships during my educational journey.”

“**Peter**” came back to school at IHCC for diesel mechanics. He took a weekend, part-time job while his wife continued to work full time, but they found that it just was not enough to make ends meet. Peter decided he was going to drop out of school, but his instructor asked that he visit with the PACE staff first. They were able to assist with gas, groceries and some bills while Peter continued his college classes. During those meetings, Peter talked through various personal issues, applying for jobs and his need for some extra encouragement to make it through the program.

Peter commented that not only was PACE assistance helping his family make ends meet, it was also helping relieve the strain that finances can put on a marriage. The assistance also give him time to spend with his son instead of taking on another job.

This past fall, Peter graduated and accepted a very good job with the railroad that will support his family.

Contact Information

Paula Nissen, Administrative Consultant

Division of Community Colleges & Workforce Preparation

Iowa Department of Education

paula.nissen2@iowa.gov - (515) 418-8273