

# Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative

The logo features the word "Arkansas" in a green font above a horizontal green line. An orange diagonal line crosses the green line from the bottom-left to the top-right. To the right of the orange line, the words "Career PATHWAYS" are written in a black font, with "PATHWAYS" in all caps.

Arkansas  
Career PATHWAYS

A state partnership

Arkansas Department of Higher Education  
Arkansas Department of Workforce  
Services

WIOA Panel  
September 29, 2016

# STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

---

- ✘ CPI participants must be an adult caretaker, parent or relative of child living in the home under the age of 21 who is deemed financially needy.
- ✘ Average age of the CPI student is 31.
- ✘ Student population is primarily female, 90%.
- ✘ Over 60% are single parents (Progress Report).

# PROGRAM SUCCESSES

---

- ✘ **Student success** consistently more than 10 points higher when compared to other community college students (Students completed or retained from Fall to Fall)
- ✘ Over 33,000 adults **enrolled**.
- ✘ Over 36,000 certificate and degrees **attained**.
- ✘ **Entered Employment** and Job Retention exceeds goal when matched to Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Data.
- ✘ **Return on Investment (ROI)**-When participant income at entry into the CPI program (as documented in initial application materials) are measured against subsequent wage increases related to improved employment opportunities, the program is able to document a **significant benefit** to the state through aggregated increases in income and sales tax revenue and a decrease in spending on public assistance. These positive benefits are then weighed against costs related to the public investment in the CPI. Promising Pathways staff developed a model to project the ROI realized by the State of Arkansas as a result of the CPI program which shows a positive return within a two to three year time frame, despite very conservative assumptions. A very small sample set of participants from a past cohort was used to test the model.

## FY17 Eligibility Criteria

Household size	TANF-Eligible Income Eligibility Standards (250%-130% FPL)	Low-Income Eligibility Standards (130% FPL)
2	\$40,050 - \$20,826	Less than \$20,826
3	\$50,400 - \$26,208	Less than \$26,208
4	\$60,750 - \$31,590	Less than \$31,590
5	\$71,100 - \$36,972	Less than \$36,972
6	\$81,450 - \$42,354	Less than \$42,354
7	\$91,825 - \$47,749	Less than \$47,749
8	\$102,225 - \$53, 157	Less than \$53, 157

# RECOGNITION OF MODEL

- ✘ In addition to being identified as 1 of 10 most Promising Pathways programs in the nation, CPI was:
  - + **SELECTED** as member of *Career Pathways Alliance (CP Alliance)*, a two-year national-level study by Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). CLASP is partnering with ten leading edge career pathway states to develop a national voluntary consensus framework of quality benchmarks and performance metrics for career pathways.
- ✘
  - + **CHOSEN** as one of two Innovative Ideas with \$10,000 awarded by Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington. The **Ideas for Action Award** is a competition to develop new thinking to reduce poverty by shining a light on practical policy shifts that help low-income people build their futures.
- ✘
  - + **IDENTIFIED** by Office of Family Assistance (OFA) as Model Employment Programs for Economic Self-Sufficiency Site Visits. A technical assistance team and film crew, on behalf of OFA, interviewed the ADHE/CPI team and visited ASUN and NPCC campuses. Career Services staff were interviewed and employers and working students were filmed.
- ✘
  - + **PUBLISHED** by Jobs for the Future (JFF), Thinking Big; Career Pathways Initiative was cited as a framework for scaling up in community colleges.
- ✘
  - + **SELECTED** as Best Fit Integrator Exceptional Service Award in Education Services by Digital Government/Education-Partner. Project: Arkansas Career Pathways Data Management System (CPDMS).

# Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative

The logo for the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative. It features the word "Arkansas" in a black sans-serif font, positioned above a thin green horizontal line. A thick orange diagonal line crosses the green line from the bottom-left to the top-right. To the right of the green line, the words "Career PATHWAYS" are written in a black sans-serif font, with "PATHWAYS" in all caps.

Arkansas  
Career PATHWAYS

Arkansas Department of Higher Education

*Dr. Karon J. Rosa*

@

Karon.rosa@adhe.edu