

How are Opportunity Grants helping put well-paying jobs within reach to low-income adults?

- The 10 Opportunity Grant pilot programs provide low-income adults with flexible financial aid and comprehensive support to help them succeed in workforce programs
- In just the first quarter, 92 percent of the students were retained and enrolled for the next quarter
- Opportunity Grant student profile:
 - 68% are parents, balancing work, family and college
 - Average household income for three people – less than \$12,500
 - 47% are students of color, compared to 32% in the entire two-year college population
- Flexible financial aid complements the Pell and State Need grants, and helps fill the gap of over \$6,000 in unmet need even after traditional aid
- Through Opportunity Grants, more students are trained in high-demand fields that have critical shortages
- State funding is leveraged through community and industry partnerships, resulting in private funding, work-based learning and industry expertise
- Students *and* colleges are held accountable for success

How will future legislation help bolster this program?

- HB 1096 is important legislation that will allow the 34 community and technical colleges to improve results for low-income families, while meeting the demands of employers
 - Provides students with funds for tuition, fees and books to complement traditional aid
 - Provides colleges with \$1,500 per student, which is critical for comprehensive support to students. Intensive counseling, advising, coaching and mentoring is a nationally proven element to student success for low-income working students
 - Creates a direct link with employers for mentoring and internships