



## Academic and Employment Training to Ensure Gainful Employment

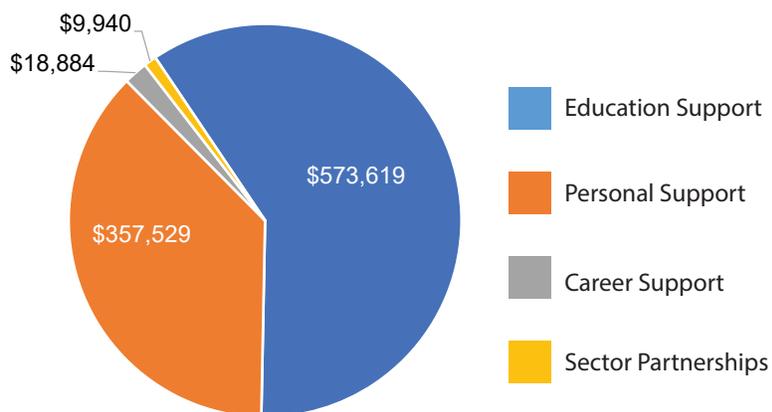
The Pathways for Academic Career and Employment (PACE) program provides funding to community colleges for the development of projects that will lead to gainful, quality, in-state employment for members of target populations by providing them with effective academic and employment training and customized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



### Support Provided

- **Educational:** 2,784 students (tuition, books, fees, tutors)
- **Personal:** 1,273 students (wrap-around support including childcare, uniforms, bus passes)
- **Career:** 1,351 students (readiness support including employment counseling, career guidance, resumes)

### Student Support \$861.53 per Participant



Total Expenses FY 2020 \$4,669,107



### 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



\* 28 Associate of Arts Degrees awarded in 2020



## Testimonials

**Ben** successfully completing the NICC Industrial Maintenance Program in February 2020. He views an industrial maintenance certificate as the key to demonstrating his knowledge and experience. “There aren’t enough trained industrial technicians in northeast Iowa. The program at Northeast Iowa Community College serves a critical need. I’m currently a maintenance technician at Andersen Windows & Doors, and the Intro to Industrial Maintenance certificate program was like gold to me. I applied what I was learning in the courses to my job at Andersen,” Ben said.

Ben started the 10-week program in November 2019. Courses include; OSHA 10 Certification, Electrical Materials Identification, Electrical Blueprint Reading and Fundamentals of Fluid Dynamics. He developed knowledge and skills to install, maintain, troubleshoot and repair equipment, primarily in manufacturing. He also trained on reading and preparing blueprints, and the basic theories of hydraulics and pneumatics necessary to troubleshoot or to operate fluid power equipment.

**Jaime** worked with an NICC Success coach while he completed his HSED and continued on to his Short Term Training Program. Jaime’s tuition was covered in our partnership with Greater Dubuque Development, but was provided funding assistance for transportation, class materials and supplies through our PACE Dollars. In addition his work with his NICC Success coach from his HSED completion to employment provided a continuity of student connection helping him become successful.

A native of Xalapa in the state of Veracruz, Mexico, Jaime moved to Galena 20 years ago. He paid bills by working numerous low-skill jobs, including grass cutting, dish washing for a local restaurant and landscaping. At 20 years of age, he faced a disease that threatened to end his life, just as his adult working years were beginning – Hodgkin lymphoma. He fought through the diagnosis and his cancer is in remission. Since graduating from Northeast Iowa Community College’s HSED program in 2013, Jaime has completed advanced manufacturing career pathway certificates in Welding and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) and the Intro to Industrial Maintenance program in February 2020. In Fall 2020, he started a new job in welding fabrication, hydraulics, and tool fixing and earning over \$20.00 per hour. “Northeast Iowa Community College changed my life 100 percent. As soon as I walked through the door, my mind changed and I wanted to work and achieve greater things in life. Not just for me, but for my family; my whole circle of life. I know I’m going to learn something new today. That’s the feeling I have when I am improving my skills,”

**Makada** is in her final semester of the Associates of Nursing degree (RN) at NIACC and will be graduating in May of this year. Makada started with the NIACC PACE Program in May of 2019 to complete the medication aide certification and needed financial assistance to help her pay for this credential. Being a C.N.A and medication aide would allow her to work more hours at the Care Center as she completed her NIACC Associates in Nursing Degree. Makada is a single mom of two young children and wasn’t sure how she was going to support her family and successfully complete her nursing program. Makada stated “My PACE Navigator was there to support and cheer me on, she was able to assist me with scholarship applications”. A local PEO chapter awarded her an extra scholarship to assist with some of her expenses. Working with her PACE Navigator she also received guidance to link up with other supports and resources to assist her with childcare, food assistance and energy assistance.

Makada is very thankful for the PACE assistance and supports. She said she is looking forward to graduating in May from NIACC and feels the PACE Program has been a great support and help.