



### **A Vision for Minnesota**

Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways is an innovative strategy that integrates basic skills education, career-specific training, and support services to meet the needs of working adults. Each local Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways program consists of a series of connected educational and training programs that allow low-skill students to advance over time to successively higher levels of education and employment in a given sector.

### **MN FastTRAC Adult Career Pathway – A Collaborative Approach**

Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathway programs are operated by local partnerships between workforce development, human services, Adult Basic Education, and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The programs align foundational and occupational education with career navigation services so low-skill, low-wage adults can obtain credentials with regional labor market value and find living wage employment.

### **Meeting Employer Needs**

Local programs target industries that are important to local and regional economies. By addressing local skills gaps, Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways programs work as effective supply chains for employers in need of skilled labor. This ensures that students have good job prospects once they finish their program.

### **MN FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways Early Outcomes**

- In 2013, DEED awarded grants to 17 career pathway partnerships to enhance existing pathway programs or develop programming in new sectors.
- In 2014, DEED awarded grants to 18 career pathway partnerships, expanding into new occupational sectors, target populations, and regions.
- MN FastTRAC teams completed and published an Implementation Study<sup>i</sup> to research fidelity to the model and regional variation.
- MN FastTRAC teams completed a Quantitative Report<sup>ii</sup> of Adult Basic Education students moving into Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Key MN FastTRAC findings include:
  - 60.9% of MN FastTRAC Bridge students enrolled in MnSCU during or within one year compared to 15.6% of ABE Non-MN FastTRAC ABE students enrolled in MnSCU.
  - 59.9% of MN FastTRAC students enrolled in credit courses during or within one year compared to 13.5% of ABE Non-MN FastTRAC (69.7% vs. 15.6% when including non-credit) enrolled in credit courses during or within one year.
  - 69.4% of MN FastTRAC students bypassed developmental education, whereas just 39% of ABE Non-MN FastTRAC credit-taking students did so.
- From 2010-2012, MN FastTRAC programs served over 3,000 individuals, with an 88% completion rate of college credit and/or credential and a 69% achievement of continued career pathway education and/or employment.
- MN FastTRAC participants have seen an average wage increase of 11% one year after enrollment, for those employed prior to enrollment and an average annualized wage \$16,000 one year after enrollment, for those unemployed prior to enrollment
- Since 2010, 44 MN FastTRAC programs have become operationalized in all 16 Workforce Service Areas and on 29 of the 47 MnSCU campuses.
- Since 2010, approximately 90% of Minnesota's Adult Basic Education service delivery consortia have created career pathway programming with MN FastTRAC funding.

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.asa.mnscu.edu/researchandplanning/fasttrac.html>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.asa.mnscu.edu/researchandplanning/fasttrac.html>