

Walmart Foundation Giving – A Focus on Post-Secondary Education

At Walmart, we understand how critical education is to the lives and well-being of all Americans. In 2008, Walmart and its Foundation gave more than \$66 million to fund continued support of creating opportunities in education. Through its scholarship programs alone, the Walmart Foundation awarded more than \$8 million in 2008. By supporting education, the Walmart Foundation ensures that the leaders of tomorrow have access to the quality education opportunities they need to be successful today.

The Walmart Foundation's interests within post-secondary education include:

- First-generation college student success
- Minority-serving institution support
- Job skills training and workforce development programs
- Dropout prevention and re-engagement
- Veterans' education

First-Generation College Student Success

The Walmart Foundation is committed to providing first-generation college students with the support they need to be successful. Recent grants include:

- **The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) – \$2.2 million:** CIC is an association of independent colleges and universities working together to support institutional leadership, advance institutional excellence, and enhance private higher education's contributions to society. The Walmart Foundation's grant helped establish the "Walmart College Success Awards" program which provides \$100,000 grants to competitively selected CIC institutional members that have developed expertise with educating first-generation students and ensuring their success.
- **The Foundation for Independent Higher Education (FIHE) – \$500,000:** FIHE works with a network of member state and regional fundraising associations to secure financial resources in support of America's independent colleges and universities as well as their students. Walmart Foundation funding supported FIHE's First Opportunity Partners Venture Fund, a national initiative that helps to increase the access and success of first generation, low-income and minority students in higher education.

Minority-Serving Institution Support

The Walmart Foundation is committed to supporting minority-serving institutions. Recent grants include:

- **The Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) – \$4.2 million:** IHEP serves as the facilitator for the Alliance for Equity for Higher Education, a coalition of nearly 350 minority-serving institutions (MSI's) including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities. The Foundation's grant was used to award 30 colleges with grants of \$100,000 to help improve student retention and academic success.
- **The Thurgood Marshall College Fund – \$1 million:** The Thurgood Marshall College Fund provides merit scholarships to students attending public and state HBCUs. Foundation support is helping provide African-American students with additional opportunities for educational advancement.
- **Excelencia in Education – \$1.4 million:** *Excelencia* in Education aims to accelerate higher education success for Latino students. The Walmart Foundation's grant will support the replication of effective institutional programs that promote Latino student success at institutions across the country, with a special emphasis on the success of first-generation students.

Job Skills Training and Workforce Development Programs

The Walmart Foundation is committed to providing students with the job skills they need to be successful in the workplace. Recent grants in this area include:

- **YouthBuild USA – \$5 M:** YouthBuild USA is a youth and community development program that addresses core issues facing low-income communities: housing, education, employment, crime prevention and leadership development. YouthBuild programs offer disadvantaged youth the opportunity to earn their GED's or high school diplomas while obtaining career development skills. Walmart Foundation funding expanded and enhanced YouthBuild USA's

programming, including initiatives to increase “green” building practices and training for YouthBuild participants and graduates.

- **American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) – \$2.5:** AACC is the primary advocacy organization for community colleges at the national level and works closely with directors of state offices to inform and affect state policy. The Walmart Foundation grant to AACC supported the creation of new workforce training programs in 20 community colleges in the AACC.

Dropout Prevention and Re-Engagement

The Walmart Foundation is committed to reengaging students who have left high school prior to receiving their diplomas and putting them on the track towards completion of degrees in higher education. Recent grants include:

- **Gateway to College – \$2.5 million:** Gateway to College serves at-risk youth, 16-20 years old, who have dropped out of school. The program gives students the opportunity to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and college credits. Walmart Foundation funding will replicate the Gateway to College model in four new cities.
- **Communities in Schools (CIS) – \$2 million:** The CIS network of local affiliates and state offices provides access to needed services for more than two million young people and their families in 27 states and D.C. The Walmart Foundation’s grant provided college scholarships and portfolio support to students participating in CIS’ Performance Learning Centers (PLC). PLCs are small, non-traditional high schools designed to engage students who are not succeeding in the traditional school setting. Foundation funding will also support replication of the PLC model at two new locations.
- **America’s Promise Alliance (APA) – \$1 million:** APA is the nation’s largest multi-sector collaborative dedicated to the well-being of children and youth. APA seeks to improve the lives of disadvantaged youth by ensuring that more children gain access to “The Five Promises” – caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education and opportunities to help others. The Foundation’s grant supported dropout prevention summits currently being held by APA across the U.S.
- **National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program - \$250,000:** The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is a multi-phased intervention program dedicated to assisting high school dropouts between the ages of 16-18. The ChalleNGe Program’s mission is to intervene and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults. The Walmart Foundation’s grant allowed the National Guard Youth Foundation to create additional vocational/technical training opportunities by awarding stipends to allow ChalleNGe participants to attain job skills in areas of their choice.

Veterans’ Education

The Walmart Foundation is committed to providing our nation’s veterans with the educational opportunities they deserve. Recent grants include:

- **The American Council on Education (ACE) – \$2.5 million:** ACE serves as a consensus leader on key higher education issues and seeks to influence public policy through advocacy, research and program initiatives. The Walmart Foundation’s grant was awarded to ACE to support veterans’ assistance programs at 20 colleges and universities.
- **Colleges and Universities with Demonstrated Success in Veterans’ Support - \$1 million:** As part of the Walmart Foundation’s commitment to help the people who serve our country pursue higher education, grants of \$100,000 each were awarded to ten colleges and universities (Arkansas State University, Citrus College, Cleveland State University, San Diego University, San Diego City College, Mississippi State University, Florida Community College, University of Incarnate Word, University of Minnesota, Montgomery College) to build on programs and resources that help veterans throughout their college careers.
- **Student Veterans of America (SVA) – \$100,000:** Student Veterans of America is a coalition of student veteran groups from college campuses across the United States that works to develop new student groups, coordinate between existing groups, and advocate on behalf of student veterans at the local, state, and national level. Walmart Foundation funding helped establish additional chapters and support student veteran advocates nationwide.