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Office of the Secretary of Higher Education Expands Statewide ‘Some College, No Degree’ Initiative

*Five Additional Institutions Join State ReUp Partnership Network,
\$3.3 Million in Grants Awarded*

TRENTON – Today the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) announced the expansion of the statewide ‘Some College, No Degree’ initiative, which is helping New Jersey residents with some college credit, but no degree, return and complete their postsecondary education.

In New Jersey, over 790,000 residents are a part of this population, having stepped away for an array of reasons from financial and material hardship to shifting career goals and aspirations. The initiative received \$8 million from the State’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget for its second year to continue providing resources and support to this student population and to implement additional best practice strategies geared toward retention and completion at institutions of higher education.

"Obtaining a degree can be a life-changer for someone aspiring to do more in their chosen field or deciding to pursue an entirely new career," **said Governor Murphy**. "This innovative initiative reflects the realities on the ground and our commitment to serving the diverse needs of today’s learners and tomorrow’s workforce. By supporting our students in completing their postsecondary education, we are not only investing in their future but also building a stronger and more resilient economy as a whole."

"Through this critical funding, New Jersey can better respond to the differing needs of today’s learner and our workforce," **said Secretary Bridges**. "We appreciate that institutions are committed to working together with the State to increase support for our students, as we strive to meet the state’s goal of 65 percent of residents earning a high-quality credential by 2025."

Specifically, OSHE is announcing:

- **The expansion of the [innovative partnership with ReUp Education](#) to 22 New Jersey institutions of higher education:** A second cohort of five additional institutions will join the current 17 that are receiving support from ReUp to reach and re-engage the some college, no degree student population. The second cohort consists of County College of Morris, Rowan College of South Jersey, Montclair State University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, and Rowan University. Since launching in spring 2023, the partnership with ReUp has already supported the reenrollment of nearly 2,800 individuals statewide.
- **The awarding of nearly \$3.3 million in grant funding to 23 institutions:** These [institutional grants](#) aim to address barriers to students' return to higher education as well as help institutions build capacity to serve this population. Recognizing the differing needs of this student population, institutions are utilizing the funding in a variety of ways, including: providing basic needs support and support for unexpected expenses, enhancing credit for students' prior work experiences, creating centralized one-stop hubs for adult learners, extending service hours for key student support programs, providing specialized career services, and updating policies to be more inclusive of adult learners. [Full award list here.](#)

"Over half (53%) of the individuals supported by ReUp in New Jersey want to resume their education at the earliest opportunity and, by facilitating meaningful, data-driven changes in partnership with institutions, nearly 2,800 students enrolled since April," **said Christine Wyatt, Chief Operating Officer of ReUp Education.** "Together, these efforts are breaking down barriers and providing essential resources to empower and guide learners to return and complete their educational journeys."

Nationally, the population of students with some college, but no degree has been increasing and roughly translates to one-in-four adults across the U.S. Together, the complementary initiatives announced today aim to counter the issue of this growing population by providing immediate support to institutions to understand and address why these students stopped their education and to help prevent future students from interrupting their pursuit of a college degree.

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About New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education: The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) is the leading state agency for higher education policy development and statewide program coordination in New Jersey. Under the leadership of Secretary Brian Bridges, Ph.D., the office works to enhance postsecondary opportunity with a focus on equity, access and affordability for students from all backgrounds. OSHE is dedicated to shaping a strong and inclusive higher education landscape and strategically collaborates with a diverse array of partners to inform best practice, student-centered strategies that empower success. Learn more at nj.gov/highereducation.

About ReUp Education: ReUp Education is the industry leader in finding, enrolling, and supporting adult learners at scale. Driven by our mission to empower all adults to thrive in higher ed, we partner with institutions, state systems, state and regional governments, and member organizations to help adults navigate the journey to and through school. Named one of Fast Company's Next Big Things in Tech, our patented technology, personalized support, and data insights have helped tens of thousands of adult learners make their dreams of higher education a reality. We're on a mission to help millions more. Reimagine the adult learner experience at reupeducation.com.

