

## 2024 Fall Insights

The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), in collaboration with ReUp Education, continues to lead the charge in supporting the state's 790,000<sup>1</sup> learners with some college no degree (SCND). Partnering with 22 institutions, this initiative leverages cutting-edge technology and personalized coaching to reengage stopped-out students, helping them return to their studies and complete their degrees. This brief spotlights New Jersey's success in driving re-enrollment, graduating learners, and contributing to the state's economy.

### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND RE-ENROLLMENTS

9,750+

Students have reenrolled since April 2023 as a result of the New Jersey and ReUp initiative.<sup>2</sup>

350+

students have graduated.<sup>2</sup>

25,500

individuals have expressed interest in re-enrolling in college.<sup>2</sup>

~\$44m

in recaptured tuition collectively earned by the 22 participating institutions.<sup>3</sup>

~\$130m

projected recaptured tuition gained by institutions when the 9,750+ students graduate.<sup>4</sup>

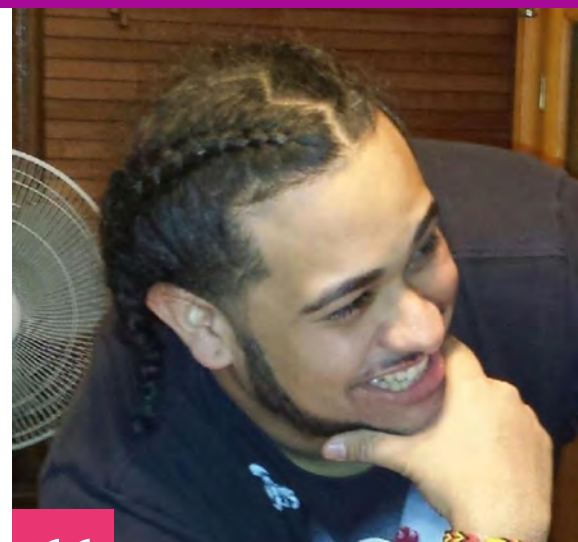
~\$91m

additional expected contributions to the state economy through taxes & consumer spending in graduates' first year after graduation.<sup>4</sup>

Upon graduation, students with an Associate's could earn approximately \$3,700 per year in increased wages, while those with a Bachelor's could earn approximately

\$25,000<sup>4</sup>

(increased wages per year)



“

You guys don't know the help you're giving, the confidence you're giving each day to that student, to that person, to that individual. You're helping that person make changes not only in their academic life but in their personal life. It's literally changed my life.

— JOEL C.,

Radiography Program

Passaic County

Community College (PCCC)

# FROM START TO FINISH: SUPPORTING LEARNERS TO GRADUATION

The SCND initiative ensures learners are personally supported across every stage of the learner lifecycle, and this commitment has driven our significant impact on New Jersey learners. The 350+ learners who have graduated represent more than just data—they tell the story of learners' perseverance and success.

## Top 3 Program Areas for Graduates<sup>5</sup>

1. Business, Management, Marketing & Related Services (17.56%)
2. Liberal Arts and General Studies (10.75%)
3. Health Professions (8.96%)

## Graduate Pathways

When analyzing the pathways of returning learners, we see a clear story of persistence and alignment.

- Of the students that graduated, 92% stayed in their original program area.<sup>5</sup>
- Meanwhile, 70% of learners who switched programs graduated within one of the top three program areas.<sup>5</sup>

This demonstrates that while program alignment matters, our learners find success even when they pivot—a testament to their resilience and the support structures in place.



## Institution Spotlight

At Union College of Union County, NJ (UCNJ), 65% of students are 21+, yet until recently, the institution lacked tailored resources to support adult learners, such as dedicated orientations, advisors, and career services. With funding from the OSHE, UCNJ partnered with ReUp to bridge this gap—connecting with stopped-out adult students, guiding them through reentry, and providing tailored support.



This collaboration has already yielded significant results:

- The number of returning students supported by ReUp grew from 47 in Fall 2023 to 226 in Fall 2024.
- UCNJ achieved its highest new student enrollment in history in Fall 2024.
- Graduation rates for returning learners reached an all-time high of over 35.4% in Summer 2024.

Building on this success, UCNJ launched the Pathway for Adult Learners (PAL) initiative in Fall 2024 to provide long-term, institutionalized support for returning learners. Using OSHE grant funds, the College hired additional career services personnel and offered PAL-specific events to support adult learners. With PAL now in place, UCNJ is poised to supercharge its impact on returning and adult learners in the years ahead.

This achievement highlights UCNJ's commitment to removing barriers for adult learners and the power of collaboration between OSHE, institutions, and ReUp.

For questions or more information about the SCND initiative, visit [nj.gov/highereducation/somecollegenodegree.shtml](https://nj.gov/highereducation/somecollegenodegree.shtml) or contact **Stefani Thachik**, [stefani.thachik@oshe.nj.gov](mailto:stefani.thachik@oshe.nj.gov).

<sup>1</sup> National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 2023: <https://nscresearchcenter.org/some-college-no-credential/>

<sup>2</sup> ReUp Education Analytics, New Jersey, 2024: 1/6/2025

<sup>3</sup> The number of enrolled students at each institution was calculated by multiplying the average number of credits for their school type and then multiplying that institution's cost per credit. The average number of credits to complete by school type is: 30 credits on average for AA degrees and an average of 60 credits for BA degrees.

<sup>4</sup> Calculated based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nationally, AA holders can expect to make \$3,700 more annually and BA holders \$25,000 annually than individuals with SCND. "Education pays, 2022," Career Outlook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2023: <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2023/data-on-display/education-pays.htm>

<sup>5</sup> ReUp Education Analytics, New Jersey, 2024: 11/18/2024