



## FAST FORWARD PROGRAM

Fast Forward launched in July 2022 with a generous gift from Cal Turner, Jr., former CEO of Dollar General. Mr. Turner realized there were middle skills jobs – those requiring more than a high school diploma and less than a bachelor’s degree – that were going unfilled.

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Fast Forward focuses primarily on three key areas:

- Supporting underserved high school students
- Supporting underemployed adults
- Providing thought leadership and issue advocacy to support and expedite innovation in education equity and workforce development. We are a “think and do” tank.

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The Belmont Fast Forward program is unique; we are connective tissue and are implementing small pilot projects with the intent to demonstrate persistence and completion, with the goal that these initiatives can be replicated on a larger scale. We are connecting adults and high school students with training and educational opportunities. We (Belmont) are not the provider – but rather the connector. We are here to provide synergy, connection, needed funding, and support.

For our **high school initiatives**, we believe that intentional programming, exposure to career pathways, and other braided supports can positively affect technical certificate and credential completion. In addition, we believe that CTE dual enrollment courses – rather than the usual English and math – can help students persist and complete technical certificates much earlier.

To support these goals, Belmont Fast Forward has partnered with **Volunteer State Community College** and **Sumner County Schools** to boost access to summer college courses for May 2024 high school graduates. This initiative will provide funding before students’ Pell Grants, Tennessee Promise, or other aid are available in the fall. Belmont Fast Forward is providing funding and support for up to \$60K in tuition and books for students to enroll in up to three career and technical courses (business, logistics, and computer applications) at Volunteer State Community College’s Gallatin campus.

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For more information about **Belmont Fast Forward**, please contact Bridget Golden, Fast Forward Director, at [bridget.golden@belmont.edu](mailto:bridget.golden@belmont.edu), 615.975.5930 (cell), or visit [www.belmont.edu/fast-forward/](http://www.belmont.edu/fast-forward/)

For specific questions about admission to **Volunteer State Community College** and the courses, please contact Duane Berry at [duane.berry@volstate.edu](mailto:duane.berry@volstate.edu)