



# Building a Stronger Workforce and Economy

Good for Employees, Companies, Chattanooga Region & Higher Education

How can we ensure that business investments in the tri-state 16 county region are matched with skilled and talented people are not left to happenstance?

How can we increase the confidence and productivity of the people already in our workforce?

And how can we minimize the time and cost associated with higher education for working adults?

**Here's one way:** The Chattanooga Region Talent Dividend Initiative (CRTDI), a non-profit 501c(3), through the Greater Chattanooga Community Foundation, aims to facilitate an increase in the number of working adults with college degrees or other post-secondary credentials. By 2025, we aim to see a regional workforce that boasts a 60% college or other post-secondary credential rate. To do this, we'll encourage collaboration among business, higher education and government entities to help our workforce earn college level credit for prior learning.

A three-way win for employees, employers and the region as a whole, adults currently in the workforce who have some college but have not completed a degree and/or certificate are now able to expedite the process of finishing their studies in a whole new way.

**Here's how it works:** Employees meet with one of the participating colleges or universities in the 16-county region to identify the degree they want to pursue.

Together, the individual school and employee determine the best path for earning credit for on-the-job experience, military experience or even volunteer work.

**The result?** A clear plan for completing the degree using a combination of prior learning and additional course work.

## What You Can Do

**Employers** - Encourage your employees to pursue earning their credentials through the credit for prior learning program. More information is available at [www.betterbydegrees.org](http://www.betterbydegrees.org).

**Higher Learning Institutions** - Make sure your institution is included in the list of organizations offering credit for prior learning. More information is available at [www.betterbydegrees.org](http://www.betterbydegrees.org).

**Chambers of Commerce** - Encourage the community you serve to jump into this effort by celebrating successes and building momentum.

Talk with CRTDI about getting involved at 423-667-1211 or [JohnWSchaerer@gmail.com](mailto:JohnWSchaerer@gmail.com).