Wilmington, Delaware
Grant Period: 2004–2007

The Bridge to Employment (BTE) Program in Wilmington, Delaware has impressive student results creating a lasting impact on its community. Consider a “punchier” tagline, for example: Impressive Results. Lasting Community Impact.

The key to BTE-Wilmington’s success is simple: set clear goals, create student activities that achieve those goals, and measure results. The goals are not as simple:

1. Reduce Student Learning Barriers;
2. Improve Teacher-Student Interactions;
3. Develop Teacher-Support Service Relationships; and

BTE-Wilmington created program elements that operate year-round with academic and social support for students before, during and after school, and during the summer months.

So what are the impressive results?

- BTE students had nearly 20 fewer absent days than a comparison group of students.
- BTE students had higher standardized test scores in reading, math, general sciences and concepts and process than a comparison group.

Due to the program’s success, Noramco provided additional funding to extended the program and expand its reach after Johnson & Johnson’s initial investment.
Amber Beaman
BTE Alumni

*Bridge to Employment (BTE) can inspire a young person to start a job and make it a career.*

When Amber Beaman joined the BTE – Wilmington programs she was already an excellent student, but needed an opportunity to become a leader. While in the BTE program, Amber assumed a leadership role among her peers, that spring boarded her college career.

Currently, Amber is a rising senior at the University of Delaware, earning a 3.3 grade point average as an elementary education major with a concentration in mathematics. Amber is also a McNair Scholar and conducts research under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Her research compares how mathematics is taught in higher achieving countries in an effort to better understand how math educators in the United States can help improve their level of teaching.

According to Amber, “The BTE program has inspired me not to fear telling people that I come from the inner-city. It is important for me that they know kids raised in the inner-city can graduate from high school, get accepted into college, achieve in college and graduate on the Dean's List.”