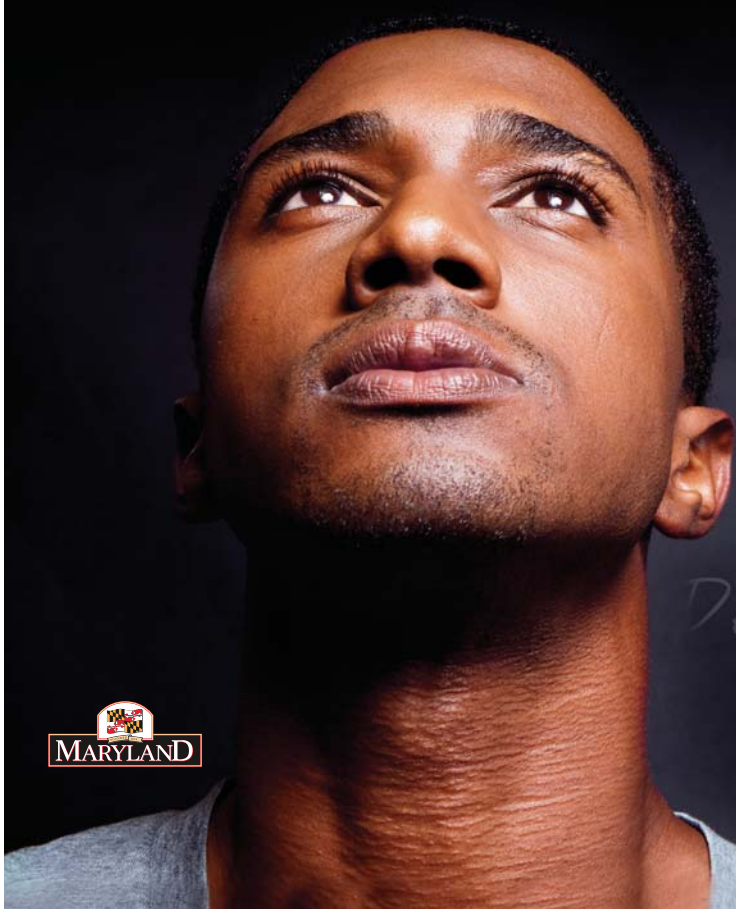


# PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



GET THE SKILLS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED IN TODAY'S WORKPLACE



*Training  
credential  
certificate  
Degree*



**Skills** **2** **MARYLAND**  
**Compete**

*Dear Fellow Marylanders,*

Please join me in embracing our new Skills2Compete vision for Maryland. Through Skills2Compete, Lt. Governor Brown and I encourage all of you to achieve at least two years of education and training past high school to increase your skills and your opportunities for a rewarding career. This could take the form of a career or technical credential, industry certification, or a two-year degree. ★ Even in this difficult economy, we often hear from employers that they cannot find the workers who have the skills and credentials required to fill some of their job openings in fields such as information technology, healthcare and manufacturing. We can't let this happen. Our long-term prosperity depends on having a skilled workforce that can help Maryland businesses innovate and grow. ★ Maryland has an outstanding network of schools, workforce programs, apprenticeships, and other resources that can help you build skills for 21st century jobs and help increase your earnings. We hope that you will take advantage of these many opportunities and build a new foundation for the benefit of your families, our businesses and our economy.



**Martin O'Malley**  
Governor



**Anthony G. Brown**  
Lt. Governor

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**PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE** With a competitive job market, and new and emerging technologies, many employers are requiring new skills to succeed.

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT** The overwhelming majority of Maryland's jobs will be in middle- or high-skill jobs. They will require education or training past high school, but not necessarily a four-year degree.

**GAIN THE SKILLS TO SUCCEED** Obtain the necessary education and training to move into good jobs with family supporting wages.

**CREDENTIALS COUNT** Pursue two years of education and training past high school, leading to a technical credential, industry certification, or a two-year degree.

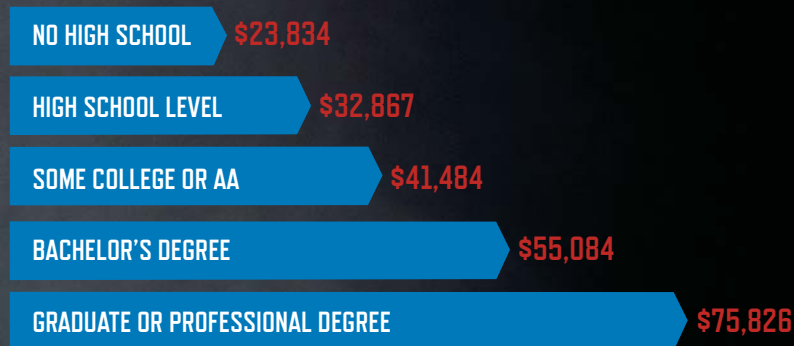
**HIGHER SKILLS, HIGHER WAGES** On average, workers with more skills and credentials earn higher wages, as shown in the chart opposite.

## EXAMPLES OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR MIDDLE SKILLS JOBS IN MARYLAND

OCCUPATION	MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGES IN MARYLAND	MOST COMMON EDUCATION
Registered Nurses	\$74,100	ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Computer Support Specialists	\$48,290	ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Heating, A/C & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$45,850	APPRENTICESHIP
Dental Hygienists	\$72,470	ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Bus/Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists	\$43,340	POST-SECONDARY CERTIFICATE
Respiratory Therapists	\$61,960	ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	\$59,980	ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Auto Service Technicians & Mechanics	\$39,630	POST-SECONDARY CERTIFICATE
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians	\$42,950	ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and U.S. Department of Labor

## 2008 MEDIAN ANNUAL EARNINGS IN MARYLAND



People Ages 25+, Source: U.S. Census Bureau





## GETTING STARTED

If you are interested in taking advantage of education and training opportunities in Maryland, please refer to the following resources:

- Maryland's 16 Community Colleges offer a variety of valuable degrees, certificates and training programs. <http://www.mdacc.org>
- Maryland's system of 35 One-Stop Career Centers can provide you information and referral to a variety of training opportunities. Visit your local One-Stop Career Center to determine if you are eligible for training under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/county>
- Private Career Schools are another source for training opportunities. <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/career/pcs/index.asp>
- Registered Apprenticeship programs afford you an opportunity to earn while you learn. <http://dllr.state.md.us/labor/appr.html>



Visit a Maryland One-Stop Career Center,  
Community College or [www.skills.maryland.gov](http://www.skills.maryland.gov)



## RESOURCES FOR TRAINING

Financial assistance in the form of loans and grants are offered at many schools in Maryland to eligible students. Interested students should contact the school's financial aid office for more information. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is an excellent resource for information about financial aid. <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/index.asp>. Examples include:

- **Need-Based Grants:** The Federal Pell Grant and State Need-Based grants are available for individuals who meet certain income requirements. <http://www.ed.gov/programs/fpg/>
- **Student Loans:** Various loan programs are available directly from the U.S. Department of Education and other entities. <http://www.direct.ed.gov/student.html>
- **Scholarships** are available based on merit, career choice, membership in a unique population, post-graduation service requirements, financial need, etc. <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/index.asp>
- **Veterans** are often eligible for a variety of tuition assistance programs under the G.I. Bill. <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>
- **Job Corps:** Job Corps offers education and vocational training, at no charge, to certain youth between the ages of 16 and 24. <http://www.jobcorps.gov>
- Many employers offer tuition assistance. See your benefits office for more information.