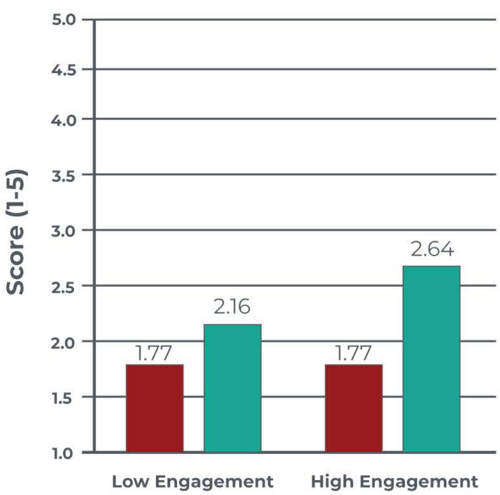
Colorado Community College System
Preliminary Results

The National Endowment for Financial Education's (NEFE) research-to-practice initiative with the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) completed its initial year. The primary intervention included an online, scalable microcredential available to all 13 institutions. ICF, an independent research firm, evaluated its effects on knowledge, confidence and real-world financial behaviors. Below are key takeaways from the survey results assessing the impact by level of engagement with the online modules.

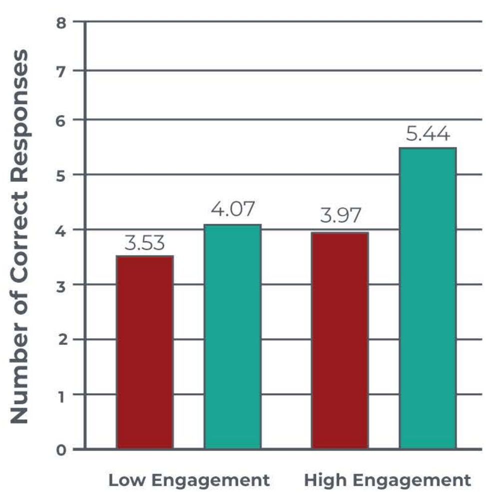
Financial Knowledge Outcomes

Participants with higher levels of engagement demonstrated gains in financial knowledge and well-being.

Subjective Financial Knowledge
High Engagement
Improvement: +0.48

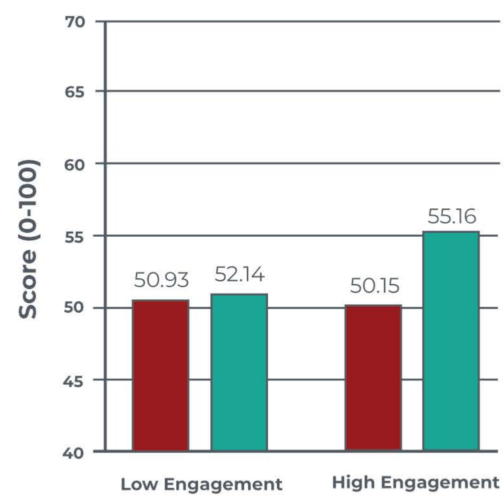


FINRA* Objective Financial Knowledge Scale
High Engagement
Improvement: +1.37



*Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)

Financial Well-Being
High Engagement
Improvement: +3.02



Baseline ■ **Post** ■

High engagement (84+ content units completed) was associated with stronger outcomes across multiple measures, and completing the course was associated with answering about one additional question correctly.

Participant Recorded Changes

Participants reported applying what they learned to real-world financial decisions.

- **Started retirement savings**
- **Used employer 401(k) matches**
- **Improved budgeting habits**
- **Better understood high-yield savings accounts**
- **Reviewed bank statements more closely**
- **Increased financial confidence**

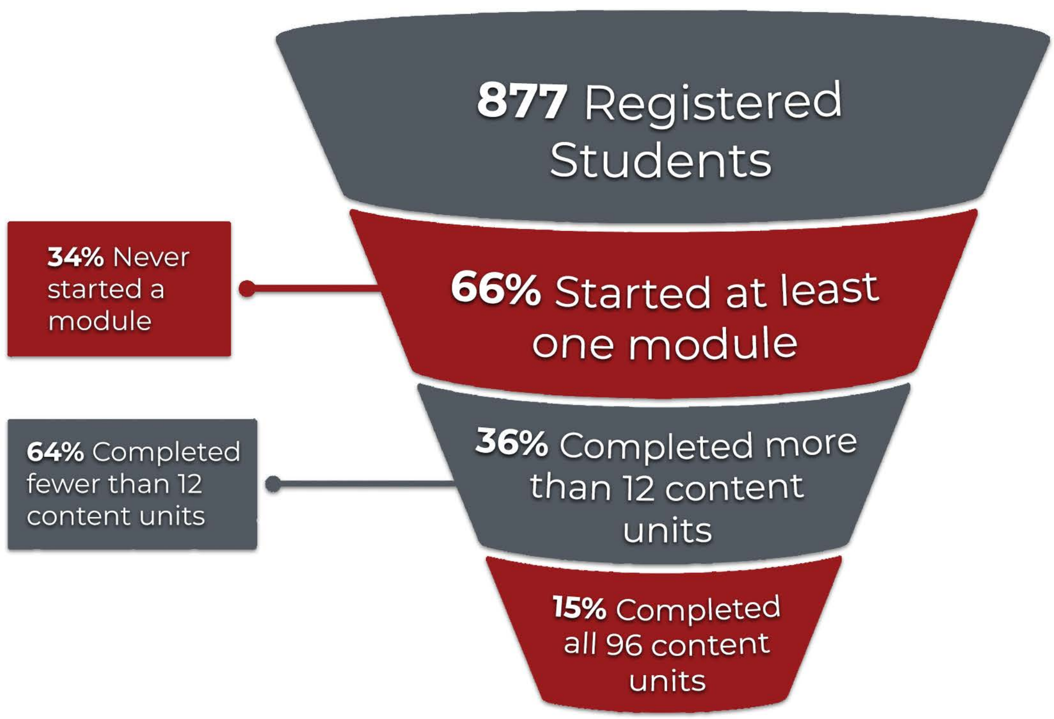
While quantitative behavior measures were not statistically significant, participants consistently described practical financial changes resulting from the program.

Program Relevance

Participants overwhelmingly viewed the microcredential as relevant, useful and manageable.

Participation and Persistence

Persistence represents the greatest opportunity for increasing program impact.



Implications for Practice

Community college students continue to need accessible financial education opportunities. The flexible delivery offered through a learning management system (LMS) can be effective for students balancing work, family and school responsibilities. Early insights demonstrate that higher engagement was associated with stronger outcomes, but sustaining engagement through online delivery remains a challenge.

Scan the Code to Read the Full Report