**Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey 2016**

**Cuyamaca College**

*Background*

Skills-building students from Cuyamaca College were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2013-2014, and did not enroll in 2014-2015: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2016 by e-mail, telephone and US mail. The survey addressed student perceptions of their CTE program, employment outcomes, and how their coursework and training relate to their current career.

A total of 904 students were surveyed and 317 unduplicated students responded, 80 of whom responded by e-mail (25.2%), 175 by telephone (55.2%), and 62 (19.6%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 35.1%.

*Results*

• Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at Cuyamaca College, and the majority (60.6%) indicated earning a certificate or degree (with or without transfer). Figure 1 shows the results.

**Figure 1. Primary reason for studying**

• Respondents were asked why they stopped taking classes at Cuyamaca College. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

* My goals were met (138)
* I completed the program (115)
* I got a job (78)
* Transferred to another school (62)

• 50.2% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at Cuyamaca College, and 35.6% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 85.8%.

• 24.6% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

• 74.1% of respondents are employed for pay. Figure 2 shows the results.

**Figure 2. Current Employment Status**

• Overall, statewide, students who transferred have 1.5 times the likelihood of being unemployed and not seeking employment (7.8% for not transferring vs. 12.0% for transferring), likely because they are enrolled at a four year institution.

• Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at Cuyamaca College. 43.9% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 27.7% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 28.5% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 78.8% of employed respondents said no.

• Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 73.0% reported finding a job and 27.0% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 64.4% found a job within six months (52.9% within three months).

• Of currently employed respondents, 14.5% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 16.6% between six months and one year, 24.5% between one and two years, 11.6% between two and three years and 31.5% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

• Before their studies, 39.4% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 49.2% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

**Figure 3. Work status before studies/training and after**

• The hourly wage of all respondents increased 16.7% from their hourly wage before their studies ($21.41) to their hourly wage after completing their studies ($24.99). Figure 4 shows the results.

**Figure 4. Earnings before studies/training and after**

• Respondents, including those who had transferred, were asked what impact their coursework had on their employment. Here are the responses, listed in rank order of frequency:

* No impact on my employment (86)
* Prepared me for a possible new job (77)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (59)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (28)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (26)
* Enabled me to start my own business (8)

*Summary and Conclusions*

The results of the survey showed that completing CTE studies and training – whether or not a credential is earned, whether or not a student transfers – is related to positive employment outcomes. The preponderance of respondents are employed, are working in the same field as their studies or training, and are working full time. Respondents overall posted a 16.7% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at Cuyamaca College and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.