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

**MiraCosta College**

*Background*

Skills-building students from MiraCosta 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 1,602 students were surveyed and 479 unduplicated students responded, 95 of whom responded by e-mail (19.8%), 334 by telephone (69.7%), and 50 (10.4%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 29.9%.

*Results*

• Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at MiraCosta College, and the majority (61.0%) 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 MiraCosta College. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

* My goals were met (215)
* I completed the program (190)
* Transferred to another school (171)
* I got a job (131)

• 64.1% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at MiraCosta College, and 30.1% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 94.2%.

• 42.8% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

• 79.3% of respondents are employed for pay. Figure 2 shows the results.

**Figure 2. Current Employment Status**

• Overall, statewide, students who transferred have 1.7 times the likelihood of being unemployed and not seeking employment (7.1% 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 MiraCosta College. 44.3% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 22.9% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 32.8% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 6.9% of employed respondents said no.

• Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 79.6% reported finding a job and 20.4% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 82.6% found a job within six months (71.1% within three months).

• Of currently employed respondents, 18.2% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 18.4% between six months and one year, 22.3% between one and two years, 14.3% between two and three years and 26.2% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

• Before their studies, 39.3% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 50.9% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

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

• The hourly wage of all respondents increased 39.1% from their hourly wage before their studies ($17.81) to their hourly wage after completing their studies ($24.77). 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 (151)
* Prepared me for a possible new job (120)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (80)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (36)
* Enabled me to start my own business (36)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (21)

*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 39.1% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at MiraCosta College and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.