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

**Palomar College**

*Background*

Skills-building students from Palomar 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 2,564 students were surveyed and 662 unduplicated students responded, 85 of whom responded by e-mail (12.8%), 487 by telephone (73.6%), and 90 (13.6%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 25.8%.

*Results*

• Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at Palomar College, and the majority (60.3%) 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 Palomar College. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

* My goals were met (293)
* I completed the program (283)
* I got a job (192)
* Transferred to another school (185)

• 56.3% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at Palomar College, and 33.7% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 90.0%.

• 35.8% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

• 77.6% 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 Palomar College. 41.3% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 24.8% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 33.9% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 6.7% of employed respondents said no.

• Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 80.2% reported finding a job and 19.8% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 80.9% found a job within six months (66.5% within three months).

• Of currently employed respondents, 18.0% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 18.3% between six months and one year, 22.2% between one and two years, 12.2% between two and three years and 28.6% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

• Before their studies, 41.7% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 53.0% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

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

• The hourly wage of all respondents increased 33.5% from their hourly wage before their studies ($17.48) to their hourly wage after completing their studies ($23.33). 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 (189)
* Prepared me for a possible new job (167)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (126)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (52)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (44)
* Enabled me to start my own business (29)

*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 33.5% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at Palomar College and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.