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

**San Diego Continuing Education**

*Background*

Skills-building students from San Diego Continuing Education were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2013-2014, and did not enroll in 2014-2015: 1) completed a CTEC award, or 2) completed at least four hours of one CTE course in 2013/14, and also completed four additional hours in at least three other CTE courses within the previous three years, or in 2013/14, and did not receive an award. 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 2,899 students were surveyed and 950 unduplicated students responded, 347 of whom responded by e-mail (36.5%), 471 by telephone (49.6%), and 132 (13.9%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 32.8%.

*Results*

• Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at San Diego Continuing Education, and the majority (27.1%) 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 San Diego Continuing Education. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

* My goals were met (294)
* I completed the program (275)
* I got a job (261)
* Didn't have enough time for classes (221)

• 53.8% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at San Diego Continuing Education, and 34.1% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 87.9%.

• 10.9% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

• 67.1% 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 San Diego Continuing Education. 35.8% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 28.9% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 35.3% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 8.2% of employed respondents said no.

• Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 75.1% reported finding a job and 24.9% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 76.4% found a job within six months (58.5% within three months).

• Of currently employed respondents, 14.3% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 13.9% between six months and one year, 23.4% between one and two years, 14.1% between two and three years and 32.9% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

• Before their studies, 38.3% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 44.6% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

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

• The hourly wage of all respondents increased 15.8% from their hourly wage before their studies ($20.43) to their hourly wage after completing their studies ($23.66). 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 (299)
* Prepared me for a possible new job (201)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (102)
* Enabled me to start my own business (69)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (62)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (51)

*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 15.8% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at San Diego Continuing Education and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.