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

**Southwestern College**

*Background*

Skills-building students from Southwestern 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 1,904 students were surveyed and 566 unduplicated students responded, 93 of whom responded by e-mail (16.4%), 403 by telephone (71.2%), and 70 (12.4%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 29.7%.

*Results*

• Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at Southwestern College, and the majority (68.9%) 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 Southwestern College. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

* My goals were met (247)
* I completed the program (206)
* I got a job (187)
* Transferred to another school (165)

• 44.5% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at Southwestern College, and 42.6% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 87.1%.

• 35.3% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

• 78.1% 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 Southwestern College. 40.2% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 23.8% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 36.0% 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, 78.3% reported finding a job and 21.7% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 82.6% found a job within six months (63.5% within three months).

• Of currently employed respondents, 16.3% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 15.4% between six months and one year, 28.1% between one and two years, 11.2% between two and three years and 28.1% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

• Before their studies, 31.8% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 52.3% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

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

• The hourly wage of all respondents increased 35.8% from their hourly wage before their studies ($15.07) to their hourly wage after completing their studies ($20.46). 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 (190)
* Prepared me for a possible new job (141)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (77)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (50)
* Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (44)
* Enabled me to start my own business (15)

*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 35.8% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at Southwestern College and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.