

units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2015 by e mail,

- Respondents

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 57,708 students were surveyed and 14,125 unduplicated students responded, 4,100 of whom responded by e mail (29.0%), 7,667 by telephone (54.3%) and 2,358 (16.7%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 25.0%.

Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying, and the majority (62.9%) indicated earning a certificate or degree (with or without transfer). Figure 1 shows the results.

Figure 1. Primary reason for studying

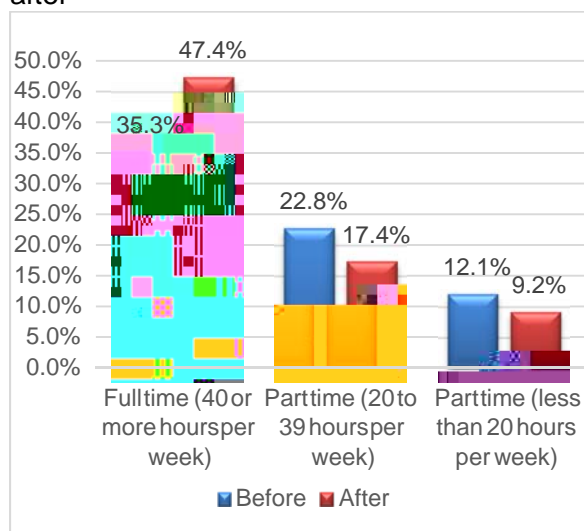
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study. 45.0% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed 24.4% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 30.6% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 77.1% of employed respondents said no.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 79.4% reported finding a job and 20.6% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 81.7% found a job within six months (65.2% within three months).

- Of currently employed respondents, 17.1% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 16.8% between six months and one year, 23.6% between one and two years, 13.2% between two and three years and 29.4% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

- Before their studies, 35.3% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 47.4% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

Figure 3. Work status before studies/training and after



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 34.1% from their hourly wage before their studies (\$18.07) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$24.24). 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:

- 9 Prepared me for a possible new job (3,207)
- 9 Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (2,382)
- 9 No impact on my employment (1,840)
- 9 Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (1,531)
- 9 Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (1,061)
- 9 Enabled me to start my own business (584)

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 34.1% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.

