

# Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey 2016 Statewide

## Background

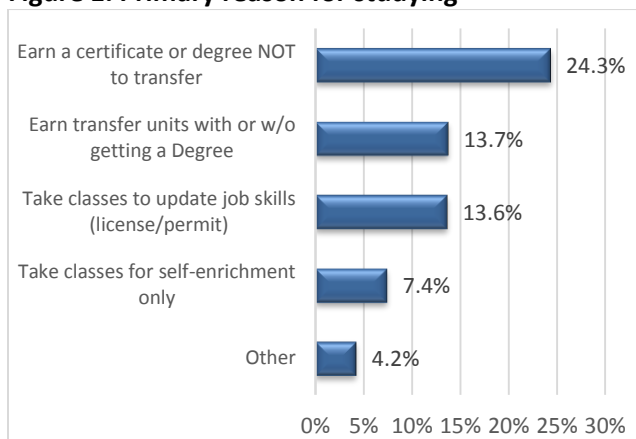
Skills-building students from all participating colleges were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2013-2014, and did not enroll in 2014-2015: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2016 by e-mail, 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 104,441 students were surveyed and 31,628 unduplicated students responded, 6,721 of whom responded by e-mail (21.3%), 20,060 by telephone (63.4%), and 4847 (15.3%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 31.0%.

## Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying, and the majority (61.1%) 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. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

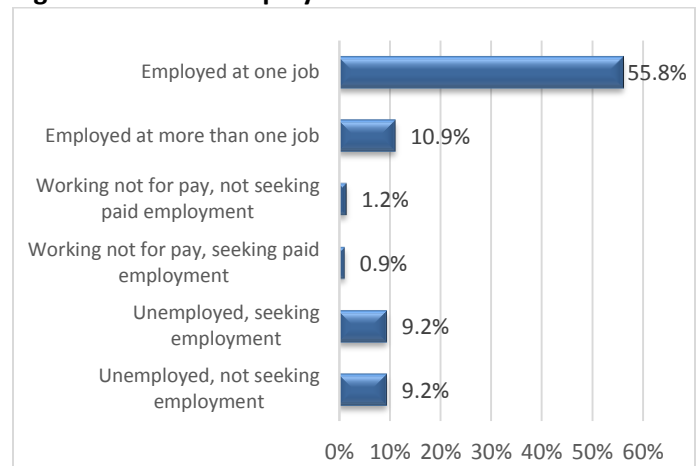
- ✓ My goals were met (14,459)
- ✓ I completed the program (13,132)
- ✓ Transferred to another school (9,163)
- ✓ I got a job (8,527)

- 53.0% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at Statewide, and 36.5% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 89.5%.

- 36.7% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

- 76.0% of respondents are employed for pay. Figure 2 shows the results.

**Figure 2. Current Employment Status**



- Overall, statewide, students who transferred have 1.5 times the likelihood of being unemployed and not seeking employment (7.8% for not transferring vs. 12.0% for transferring), likely because they are enrolled at a four year institution.

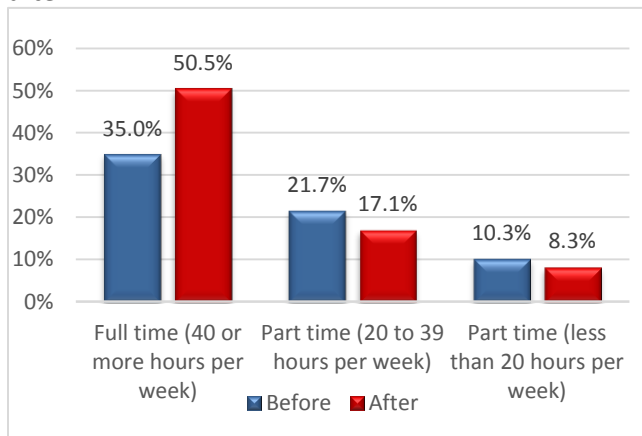
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at Statewide. 45.2% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 24.1% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 30.7% 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, 79.8% reported finding a job and 20.2% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 81.7% found a job within six months (66.1% within three months).

- Of currently employed respondents, 17.0% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 17.0% between six months and one year, 23.5% between one and two years, 13.5% between two and three years and 28.1% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

- Before their studies, 35.0% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 50.5% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

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



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 38.3% from their hourly wage before their studies (\$18.03) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$24.94). 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 (9,106)
- ✓ Prepared me for a possible new job (7,792)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (5,188)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (2,349)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (2,312)
- ✓ Enabled me to start my own business (1,432)

### 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 38.3% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at Statewide and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.