

# Career & Technical Education (CTE) Employment Outcomes Survey 2016 College of the Redwoods

## Background

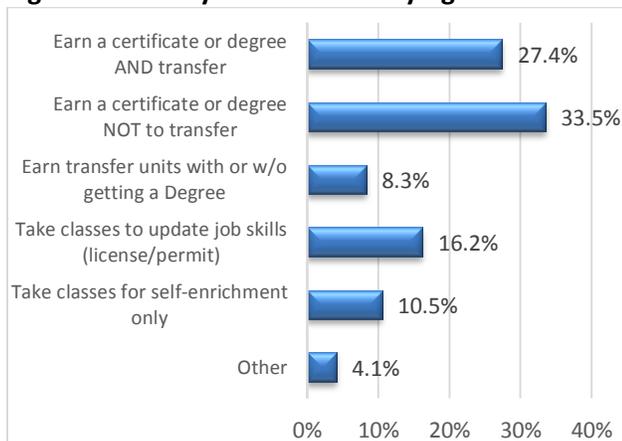
Skills-building students from College of the Redwoods were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2013-2014, and did not enroll in 2014-2015: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2016 by e-mail, 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 529 students were surveyed and 266 unduplicated students responded, 60 of whom responded by e-mail (22.6%), 157 by telephone (59.0%), and 49 (18.4%) by US Mail, for a total overall response rate of 50.3%.

## Results

- Respondents were asked their primary reason for studying at College of the Redwoods, and the majority (60.9%) 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 College of the Redwoods. Here are the most frequently cited reasons, in rank order of frequency:

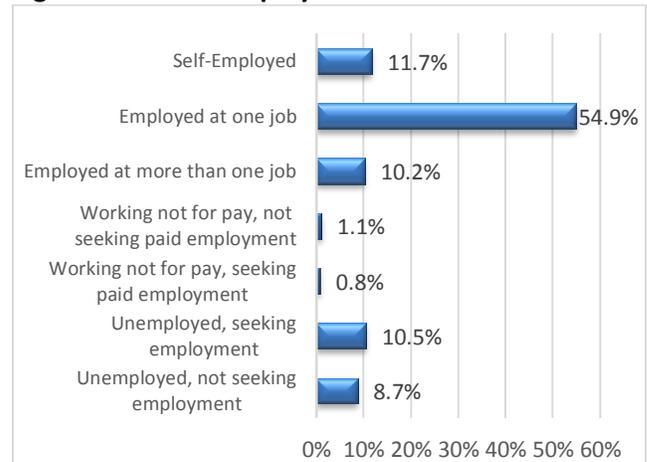
- ✓ My goals were met (123)
- ✓ I completed the program (114)
- ✓ I got a job (80)
- ✓ Relocation (54)

- 49.6% of former students were “very satisfied” with the education and training they received at College of the Redwoods, and 33.8% were “satisfied” for an overall satisfaction rate of 83.5%.

- 23.3% of respondents indicated they had transferred to another College or University.

- 76.7% 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.

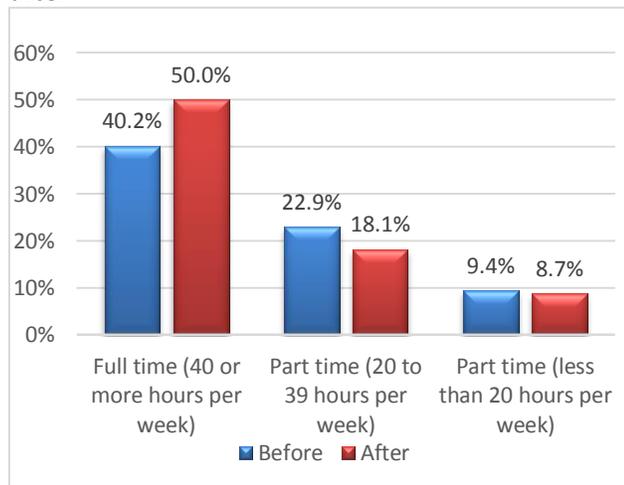
- Respondents were asked, if currently employed, how closely related their job is to their field of study at College of the Redwoods. 55.1% indicated they are working in the same field as their studies and training, followed by 20.6% indicating they work in a field that is “close” to their studies and training, and 24.3% indicated their job is not related to their studies. When asked if they were actively seeking a job in another field, 84.1% of employed respondents said no.

- Of those respondents who engaged in a job search after finishing their studies, 84.0% reported finding a job and 16.0% were still looking. Of those with a successful job search, 86.7% found a job within six months (65.7% within three months).

- Of currently employed respondents, 18.1% had been employed at their current job less than six months, 17.6% between six months and one year, 24.9% between one and two years, 14.6% between two and three years and 24.4% had been employed at their current job for more than three years.

- Before their studies, 40.2% of respondents worked full time. After completing their studies, 50.0% work full time. Figure 3 shows the results.

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



- The hourly wage of all respondents increased 35.0% from their hourly wage before their studies

(\$15.01) to their hourly wage after completing their studies (\$20.26). 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 (72)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a job at a new organization (58)
- ✓ Prepared me for a possible new job (54)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to get a promotion at my same organization (24)
- ✓ Enabled me to learn skills that allowed me to stay in my current job (19)
- ✓ Enabled me to start my own business (11)

### 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 35.0% increase in their hourly wage after completing their studies at College of the Redwoods and the vast majority were satisfied with the education and training they received.