Completer and skills-building students at College of the Desert were surveyed if they met one of the following criteria in 2016-2017, and did not enroll (or were minimally enrolled) in 2017-2018: earned a certificate of 6 or more units, earned a vocational degree, or earned 9+ CTE units. The survey was administered in early 2019 by e-mail, text message (SMS), and telephone. 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 1038 students were surveyed and 227 (22%) students responded: 45% by email, 47% by phone, and 8% by SMS.

- **How satisfied are students with the education and training they received?**
  - Very Satisfied: 40.5%
  - Satisfied: 11.3%
  - Other: 48.2%

- **How many students secured a job that is closely related to their program of study?**
  - Very Close: 37.1%
  - Close: 34.7%
  - Not Close: 28.2%

- **How many hours per week are employed students working?**
  - 40+ hours: 17.9%
  - >20 hours: 9.5%
  - <20 hours: 72.6%

- **How many months did it take for students to find a job?**
  - 0: 20.4%
  - 1-3: 18.4%
  - 4-6: 16.3%
  - 7+: 44.9%
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

What were the hourly wages of transfer students and non-transfer students—before training versus after training?

What is your current employment status?

More Key Results

$6.17 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars
42% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain
85% of respondents reported being employed for pay
32% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university
89% of respondents reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their training.

Conclusion

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 and are working in the same field as their studies or training. Notably, students realize a greater wage gain after completing their studies if they secure a job that is similar to their program of study.