Completer and skills-building students at East Los Angeles College 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 5462 students were surveyed and 881 (16%) students responded: 29% by email, 61% by phone, and 10% by SMS.
What were the hourly wages of the students before training versus after training?

Before Training: $18.00
After Training: $22.00

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

Before Training:
- Transfer: $14.00
- Non-Transfer: $18.00

After Training:
- Transfer: $19.00
- Non-Transfer: $25.00

Does the similarity between job and program of study influence wage gains?

Before Training:
- Not Close: $3.00
- Close: $3.25

After Training:
- Not Close: $3.25
- Close: $9.00
- Very Close: $9.00

More Key Results

$6.00 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars
38% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain
82% of respondents reported being employed for pay
41% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university
94% of respondents reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their training.

What is your current employment status?

- Employed At One Job: 64.6%
- Employed At More Than One Job: 10.1%
- Unemployed, Seeking Work: 9.7%
- Self-Employed: 7.5%
- Unemployed, Not Seeking Work: 6.4%
- Unpaid Work, Seeking Paid Work: 0.9%
- Unpaid Work, Not Seeking Paid Work: 0.7%

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.