Santa Barbara City College

Completer and skills-building students at Santa Barbara City 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 1932 students were surveyed and 371 (19%) students responded: 73% by email, 21% by phone, and 6% by SMS.
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?

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

More Key Results

$8.00 is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in dollars

47% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain

80% of respondents reported being employed for pay

35% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university

94% 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.