Completer and skills-building students at West Hills College Coalinga 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 294 students were surveyed and 69 (23%) students responded: 32% by email, 62% by phone, and 6% by SMS.

- **How satisfied are students with the education and training they received?**
  - Very Satisfied: 55.2%
  - Satisfied: 37.3%
  - Other: 7.5%

- **How many students secured a job that is closely related to their program of study?**
  - Very Close: 45.6%
  - Close: 33.3%
  - Not Close: 21.1%

- **How many hours per week are employed students working?**
  - 40+ hours: 12.3%
  - >20 hours: 7.0%
  - <20 hours: 80.7%

- **How many months did it take for students to find a job?**
  - 0: 31.0%
  - 1-3: 34.5%
  - 4-6: 20.7%
  - 7+ months: 13.8%
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?

What is your current employment status?

More Key Results

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

57% is the overall change in hourly wages after completing training—in percentage gain

89% of respondents reported being employed for pay

29% of respondents reported transferring to another college or university

93% 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.