

RESEARCH BRIEF

INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAM PLANNING

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 2

AUGUST 1996

RECENT ALUMNI SURVEY

As part of the St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) strategic planning process, the Institutional Assessment Group developed the "Recent Alumni Survey". Designed to be administered to all graduates within the first year of their program completion, the survey serves multiple purposes:

- To obtain information about current activities of College alumni,
- To determine student satisfaction with the programs and services available at SPJC,
- To obtain data to supplement and meet the Performance Based Incentive Funding (PBIF) criteria, and
- To obtain data to complete the yearly Placement and Follow-Up Report.

This year's effort included surveying 2,612 completers who graduated in reporting year 1994-95. A mail survey was administered to the completers in December 1995 with a reminder sent in January 1996. Furthermore, during the months of March and April 1996, telephone follow-up surveys were conducted to acquire information from all graduates who did not respond by mail.

A total of 1,410 graduate responses were received. Of this total, 796 were received by mail and 614 responded by telephone. Responses were received from 993 A.A. graduates, 393 A.S. graduates, and 24 Certificate (CT.) graduates. The overall response rate was 54.0% (57.8% A.A. degree graduates; 46.0% A.S. graduates; and 61.5% CT. graduates).

Some highlights of the findings are:

- Over 68% (967) of the 1,410 graduates reported that they were employed. This varied by degree. More than eighty-five percent (85%) of the A.S. and CT. graduates were employed compared to 61.3% A.A. graduates.
- Sixty-five percent (65%) of the respondents reported they were continuing their education. As expected, the percentage of A.A. graduates continuing their education was greater than other program completers. Eighty-one percent (81.3%) of the A.A. graduates are furthering their education either in a four-year or a two-year college (studying in another program area). This compares with 26.4% of the A.S. and CT. completers who are continuing their education.
- Of the 1,410 respondents, 540 (38.3%) reported they were both employed and continuing their education. Of these, 228 (42.2%) were employed full-time and continuing their education; 266 (49.3%) were employed part-time and continuing education; and 46 (8.5%) were continuing their education and were employed but did not indicate the number of hours per week. The table on the opposite side shows by degree earned the number and percentages of students employed and attending college.
- Employment in-field was reported by nearly 85% of the 341 A.S. graduates and 76% of the 17 CT. graduates.
- Regarding salary, the survey results showed the hourly salary for the A.S. completers employed in a field related to their studies was slightly higher than the A.A. completers who were employed in a field related to their studies. The average hourly salary for 180 A. S. graduates employed full-time in a study-related field (and who disclosed their wage) was \$12.69; for the 79 A.A. respondents the amount was \$11.47. The amounts earned varied by program with those employed in the health professions generally earning more than others.
- In attaining employment, 42% of the graduates indicated that their SPJC studies helped them obtain their present positions, 38.9% indicated that their studies had no effect regarding their employment, and 10.5% indicated that their studies either helped them retain their position or helped them obtain a promotion. Another 8.6% indicated that their employment assisted them in other areas.
- Of those A.A. degree graduates continuing their education, over 9 in 10 (90.5%) transferred to upper-level institutions and 93.8% of them remain in Florida.
- When asked about their satisfaction with programs and services, the vast majority (90.7%) rated their overall preparation for work/school after SPJC, and 96.7% rated the quality of instruction as good, very good or excellent.

The responses confirmed that SPJC academic programs (A.A., A.S. and CT.) are achieving their intended objectives. The A.A. programs appear to be preparing students for transfer to a four year institution while the A.S. and CT. programs are preparing students for work. This is consistent with the findings of the 1992-93 Graduate Survey conducted by the Institutional Research Office in the Summer of 1994.

If you have any questions or wish to review to full report of the study, please contact Dr. Susanne Fischer at fischers@email.spjc.cc.fl.us or extension 3374.

Employment/Education Activities of 1994-95 Graduates

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITY	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY										TOTAL Count %	
	Full-time Student		Part-time Student		Enrollment Status Unknown		Activity Subtotal		NO COLLEGE			
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
A.A. Respondents												
EMPLOYED												
Full-time	47	4.7	114	11.5	2	0.2	163	16.4	128	12.9	291	29.3
Part-time	202	20.3	43	4.3	-	-	245	24.7	20	2.0	265	26.7
Employed unknown	28	2.8	15	1.5	1	0.1	44	4.4	9	0.9	53	5.3
Employed Subtotal	277	27.9	172	17.3	3	0.3	452	45.5	157	15.8	609	61.3
Unemployed	327	32.9	24	2.4	4	0.4	355	35.8	26	2.6	381	38.4
Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	0.3	3	0.3
A.A. Total	604	60.8	196	19.7	7	0.7	807	81.3	186	18.7	993	100.0
A.S. Respondents												
EMPLOYED												
Full-time	9	2.3	48	12.2	3	0.8	60	15.3	225	57.3	285	72.6
Part-time	4	1.0	12	3.1	2	0.5	18	4.6	28	7.1	46	11.7
Employed unknown	-	-	2	0.5	-	-	2	0.5	8	2.0	10	2.5
Employed Subtotal	13	3.3	62	15.8	5	1.3	80	20.4	261	66.4	341	86.8
Unemployed	10	2.5	5	1.3	1	0.3	16	4.1	34	8.7	50	12.7
Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.5	2	0.5
A.S. TOTAL	23	5.9	67	17.0	6	1.5	96	24.5	297	75.6	393	100.0
Certificate Respondents												
EMPLOYED												
Full-time	2	8.3	3	12.5	-	-	5	20.8	4	16.7	9	37.5
Part-time	1	4.2	2	8.3	-	-	3	12.5	3	12.5	6	25.0
Employed unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8.3	2	8.3
Employed Subtotal	3	12.5	5	20.8	-	-	8	33.3	9	37.5	17	70.8
Unemployed	6	25.0	-	-	-	-	6	25.0	1	4.2	7	29.2
Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CT. TOTAL	9	37.5	5	20.8	-	-	14	58.3	10	41.7	24	100.0
All Respondents												
EMPLOYMENT												
Full-time	58	4.1	165	11.7	5	0.4	228	16.2	357	25.3	585	41.5
Part-time	207	14.7	57	4.0	2	0.1	266	18.9	51	3.6	317	22.4
Employed unknown	28	2.0	17	1.2	1	0.1	46	3.3	19	1.3	65	4.6
Employed Subtotal	293	20.8	239	16.9	8	0.6	540	38.3	427	30.2	967	68.5
Unemployed	343	24.3	29	2.1	5	0.4	377	26.7	61	4.3	438	31.1
Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0.4	5	0.4
OVERALL TOTAL	636	45.1	268	19.0	13	1.0	917	65.0	493	34.9	1410	100.0