WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES
AVERAGE FIRST-YEAR EARNINGS: COLORADO

What Is Measured?
Average earnings within one year of associate degree completion, by field of study

Who Is Counted?
Graduates of associate degree programs in Colorado Community Colleges between academic year 2006–07 and 2010–11

What It Tells Us
There was wide variation in the average first-year earnings among graduates of the most popular associate degree programs. Graduates in fire protection earned, on average, $62,177 while liberal arts and sciences, general studies and humanities (AA/AS) graduates earned, on average, $30,184.

Why It’s Important

ABOUT THE DATA
Data are reported in five-year cohorts; the cohort reported here draws from students who graduated between Fall 2005 and Spring 2011. Wage data are obtained by matching Social Security numbers of graduates with Colorado unemployment insurance records for the third through sixth quarters after graduation. Only graduates employed in Colorado during that period are counted; self-employed individuals, federal employees and those working outside of Colorado are excluded. Also excluded are graduates earning less than the Colorado minimum wage. Program areas are reported by CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) code. Six popular program areas shown here are chosen by College Measures. Data are available for other CIP codes at www.collegemeasures.org.

DATA SOURCE