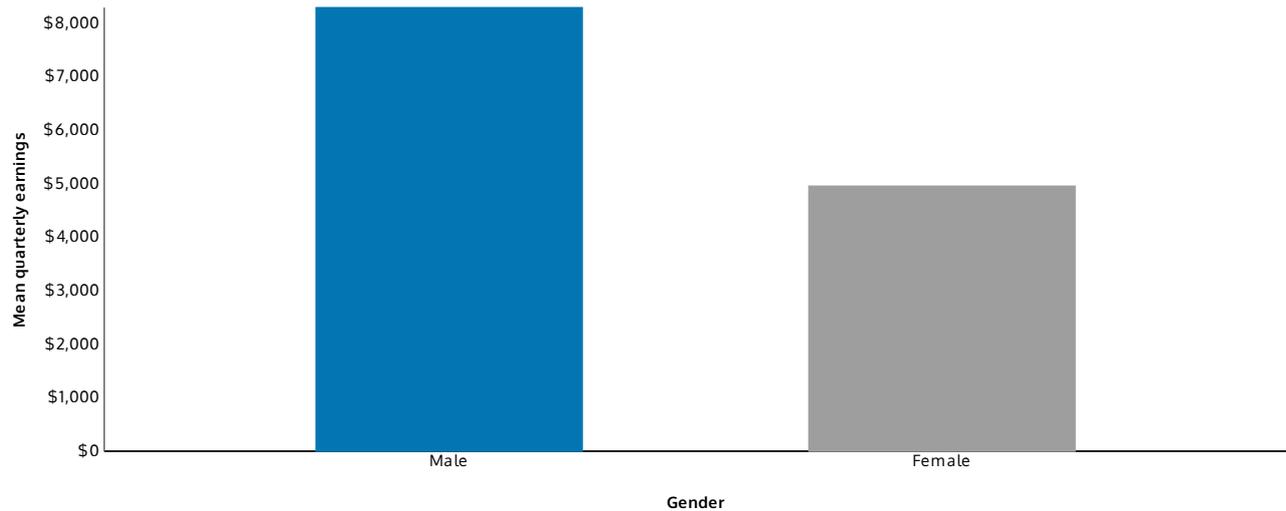


## WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

### AVERAGE QUARTERLY EARNINGS: KENTUCKY

Mean quarterly wages through the third quarter of 2008 for Kentucky Community and Technical College System students who enrolled between 2002 and 2004



#### What Is Measured?

Mean quarterly earnings through the third quarter of 2008

#### Who Is Counted?

Students who enrolled in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System between the 2002-03 and 2003-04 academic years.

#### What It Tells Us

Male students who enrolled in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System between 2002-03 and 2003-04 had higher mean quarterly earnings (\$8,300) than their female counterparts (\$5,000).

#### Why It's Important

Many students enroll in community colleges to gain new skills so that they can improve their employment prospects. Recent studies have found that median earnings for those with associate degrees are higher than median earnings for high school graduates (Baum, Ma, & Payea, 2010). Even among students who do not complete a degree, the average effect of attending a community college is estimated at a 10 percent increase for women and 9 percent for men (Belfield & Bailey, 2011). Fewer studies have examined vocational certificates at the national level, but their results are consistent with the research on associate degrees, with certificate recipients showing a substantial advantage in earnings (Bosworth, 2010).

#### ABOUT THE DATA

Data exclude students who attended while in correctional institutions, were younger than 17 years old or older than 60 years old at enrollment, and those who transferred to a four-year school. Data come from Kentucky's Unemployment Insurance wage records, and include data from the first quarter of 2000 through the third quarter of 2008. Earnings are given in 2008 dollars and cover the entire period between 2000 and 2008.

#### DATA SOURCE

Jepsen, C., Troske, K., & Coomes, P. (2009). *The labor-market returns to community college degrees, diplomas, and certificates*. University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research Discussion Paper Series. Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research.