WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES
MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARY: WISCONSIN

What Is Measured?
Median salary for Wisconsin Technical College graduates

Who Is Counted?
2010 Wisconsin Technical College graduates who were in the labor force six months after graduating

What It Tells Us
The median salary for 2010 Wisconsin Technical College graduates employed within six months of graduating was $31,200.

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
Employed: those working for pay or profit, either full time or part time, at the time of the survey.

Median salary: calculated based on respondents who are employed full time in a job related to their training. Full-time employment is defined as 35 or more hours per week.

The Wisconsin Technical College System Graduate Follow-Up Survey annually collects data regarding the activities and opinions of students approximately six months after their graduation. There were 25,712 graduates in 2010, and 17,498 respondents to the survey, for a response rate of 68 percent. Employment rates are based on the number of respondents to the survey.

DATA SOURCE