



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

Institutional Research and Planning

DATE: September 25, 2014

TO: Andrew LaManque, Associate Vice President of Instruction

FROM: Elaine Kuo, College Researcher

RE: Geographic Information System Technology (GIST) Employer Survey Results

Overview

Local employers were surveyed to explore whether students graduating from several proposed certificate and degree programs in GIST will have the skills and experiences necessary to find employment. Additionally, the survey sought to gather data regarding the employment opportunities for these potential graduates. There were 15 respondents to the survey.

Survey results include:

- A majority of respondents believed that the descriptions reflected the type of training of interest to their organization (67%), with the Certificate of Achievement III and the Associate Degree descriptions receiving the most votes. Note that three respondents did not believe any of the descriptions fit their organization's employment needs (20%). [Questions 1 & 2]
- Almost all the respondents believed that the program descriptions would meet the minimum qualifications for a GIS Technician (87%), followed by an Engineering Technician (53%) and Urban Planner (33%). [Question 3]
- Almost two-thirds of respondents reported not anticipating any employment opportunities based on the program descriptions in the coming year (60%). About one-fourth of respondents believed there may be one to three openings in the coming year (27%). [Question 4]
- When asked about possible job openings over the next five years, almost all respondents indicated there would be one to three positions available (47%) or no opportunities available (40%). Among respondents with openings either in the coming or next five years, these potential openings would occur because of either separations and job growth or job growth alone (67%). [Questions 5 & 6]
- Almost all respondents indicated that they would be *more likely* to hire students who completed the proposed program descriptions over other applicants (all else being equal)

(93%). These respondents (potential employers) were also interested in providing internship opportunities to students enrolled in the proposed programs (80%). [Questions 7 & 8]

- About two-thirds of respondents expressed interest in serving on the GIST advisory board (60%). [Question 9]

Methodology

The survey was created in SurveyMonkey and survey recipients were identified through the Bay Area Automated Mapping Association (BAAMA). Current contact information was confirmed through phone calls. The survey was conducted in February 2014.

Source

GIST employer survey via SurveyMonkey [FHDA IR&P]