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A Research Report: Higher Education: Opinions and Participation among Nonmetropolitan Nebraskans 2015 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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NEBRASKA RURAL POLL

A Research Report

Higher Education: Opinions and Participation among Nonmetropolitan Nebraskans

2015 Nebraska Rural Poll Results

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All of the research reports detailing Nebraska Rural Poll results are located on the Center's World Wide Web page at <http://ruralpoll.unl.edu>

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Executive Summary

According to the 2013 Census, 43 percent of Nebraska’s working age adults (ages 25 – 64) have a two- or four-year college degree, higher than the national average of 40 percent. Recent national and state initiatives seek to increase the numbers who earn a postsecondary degree. A report released by the Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce indicates two-thirds of Nebraska’s jobs will require some type of postsecondary education degree by 2018. Given these trends and opportunities, how many rural Nebraskans have recently participated in education or training activities and what types? How satisfied are they with various delivery methods of education and training? Do rural Nebraskans view higher education as important for individuals and the economy? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,991 responses to the 2015 Nebraska Rural Poll, the twentieth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans’ perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about education. Comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- **Many rural Nebraskans have participated in education or training activities during the past two years.** Almost one-half (48%) of rural Nebraskans have participated in these activities in the past two years.
 - ✓ *Most of the respondents who had taken education or training activities during the past two years have taken in person seminars or workshops for their job.* Approximately two-thirds (67%) of persons who had participated in education or training have taken in person job-related seminars or workshops. Many respondents have also taken the following: in person courses for continuing education credits (41%); online webinars for their job (40%); in person courses to complete or count toward a certification program (31%); in person seminars or workshops for their own general interest (28%); online courses for continuing education units (27%); and in person non-credit courses for their own general interest (21%).
- **Overall, most rural Nebraskans who have taken education or training are satisfied with both online and traditional in-person delivery methods. However, rural Nebraskans are most satisfied with in-person delivery methods.** Almost nine in ten persons (88%) are satisfied with in-person seminars or workshops. Just over eight in ten persons (83%) are satisfied with traditional in-person credit courses. Seven in ten persons (70%) are satisfied with online webinars or workshops and just over two-thirds (68%) report satisfaction with online credit courses.
- **Rural Nebraskans believe a college education is important for individuals as well as the economy.** Seven in ten rural Nebraskans (70%) agree that getting a college education today is more important than it was 10 years ago. And, almost two-thirds (65%) agree that in order to get ahead in life these days, it’s necessary for a person to get a college education. Just over one-half of rural Nebraskans

(53%) agree that increasing the number of people who get college degrees is necessary to build a strong economy.

- **Rural Nebraskans are confident that higher education can lead to a good job.** While just under one-half (48%) agree that a high school diploma can lead to a good job, at least three-quarters agree that an associate degree (75%) or a bachelor's degree (79%) can lead to a good job.
 - ✓ *Younger persons are more likely than older persons to agree that having a high school diploma can lead to a good job.* Almost six in ten persons age 19 to 29 (59%) agree with this statement, compared to 43 percent of persons age 40 to 64.
 - ✓ *Persons with at least a four year degree are more likely than persons with less education to agree that they are confident that having a bachelor's degree can lead to a good job.* Eighty-five percent of persons with at least a four year degree agree with this statement, compared to 73 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.
- **Rural Nebraskans have mixed opinions about online education.** Almost equal proportions both agree (36%) and disagree (34%) that an online course provides an equal educational value compared with a course taken in person in a classroom. However, persons who have taken an online course for a degree program (associate, bachelors, masters or other advanced degree) in the past two years are more likely than those who have not to agree with this statement. Almost one-half (47%) of persons who have taken an online course for a degree program in the past two years agree that an online course provides an equal educational value as a course taken in a classroom. Just over one-third (36%) of the recent online course takers disagree with the statement.
 - ✓ *Persons age 40 to 49 are more likely than persons of different ages to agree that an online course provides an equal educational value compared with a course taken in person in a classroom.* Forty percent of persons age 40 to 49 agree with this statement, compared to 33 percent of persons age 19 to 29. The youngest persons are the age group most likely to disagree with the statement (45%).
- **When looking ten years into the future, many rural Nebraskans believe high school students in their community will take most of their classes online.** Four in ten rural Nebraskans (40%) agree with that statement. Almost three in ten (29%) disagree.
 - ✓ *Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that high school students in their community will take most of their classes online ten years from now.* Almost one-half (47%) of Panhandle residents agree with this statement, compared to 33 percent of persons living in the Southeast region of the state.

Introduction

According to the 2013 Census, 43 percent of Nebraska’s working age adults (ages 25 – 64) have a two- or four-year college degree, higher than the national average of 40 percent. Recent national and state initiatives seek to increase the numbers who earn a postsecondary degree. A report released by the Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce indicates two-thirds of Nebraska’s jobs will require some type of postsecondary education degree by 2018. Given these trends and opportunities, how many rural Nebraskans have recently participated in education or training activities and what types? How satisfied are they with various delivery methods of education and training? Do rural Nebraskans view higher education as important for individuals and the economy? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,991 responses to the 2015 Nebraska Rural Poll, the twentieth annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans’ perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about education.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 1,991 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state.¹ A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in

¹ In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added in 2014. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other “micropolitan” counties the Rural Poll surveys.

April to 6,228 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, climate and energy, community involvement, and education. This paper reports only results from the education section.

A 32% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.
2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project director approximately seven days later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to the entire sample approximately seven days after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 14 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year’s study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2009 - 2013 American Community Survey). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Thus, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report. The

margin of error for this study is plus or minus two percent.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2010).

The average age of respondents is 51 years. Sixty-eight percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 72 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 43 years and have lived in their current community 27 years. Fifty-five percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Most have attained at least a high school diploma (97%). Thirty percent of the respondents report their 2014 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Fifty-eight percent report incomes over \$50,000.

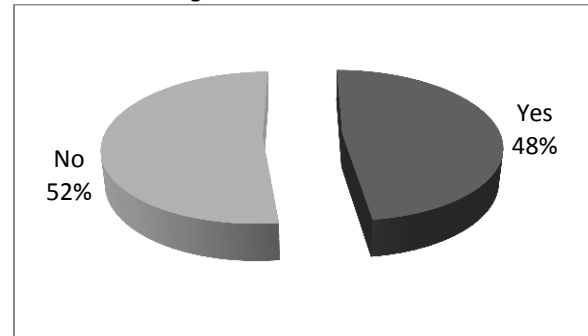
Seventy-six percent were employed in 2014 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Seventeen percent are retired. Thirty-five percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Fourteen percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

Education or Training Taken

Respondents were first asked if they have participated in any formal education courses, workshops, webinars or other training activities during the past two years.

Many rural Nebraskans have participated in education or training activities during the past two years. Almost one-half (48%) of rural

Figure 1. Participation in Education or Training Activities during Past Two Years



Nebraskans have participated in these activities in the past two years (Figure 1).

Participation in education or training activities was examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 2). Differences are detected by each of the individual attributes examined.

Persons with higher household incomes are more likely than persons with lower incomes to have participated in any education or training activities during the past two years. Over six in ten persons with household incomes of \$60,000 or more (62%) have participated in education or training activities, compared to 20 percent of persons with household incomes of \$20,000 or less.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to have taken education or training during the past two years. Approximately two-thirds (67%) of persons age 19 to 29 have participated in education or training activities during the past two years, compared to 21 percent of persons age 65 and older.

Other groups most likely to have participated in education or training activities during the past two years include: females, married persons, persons who have never married, persons with higher education levels, and persons with

management, professional or education occupations.

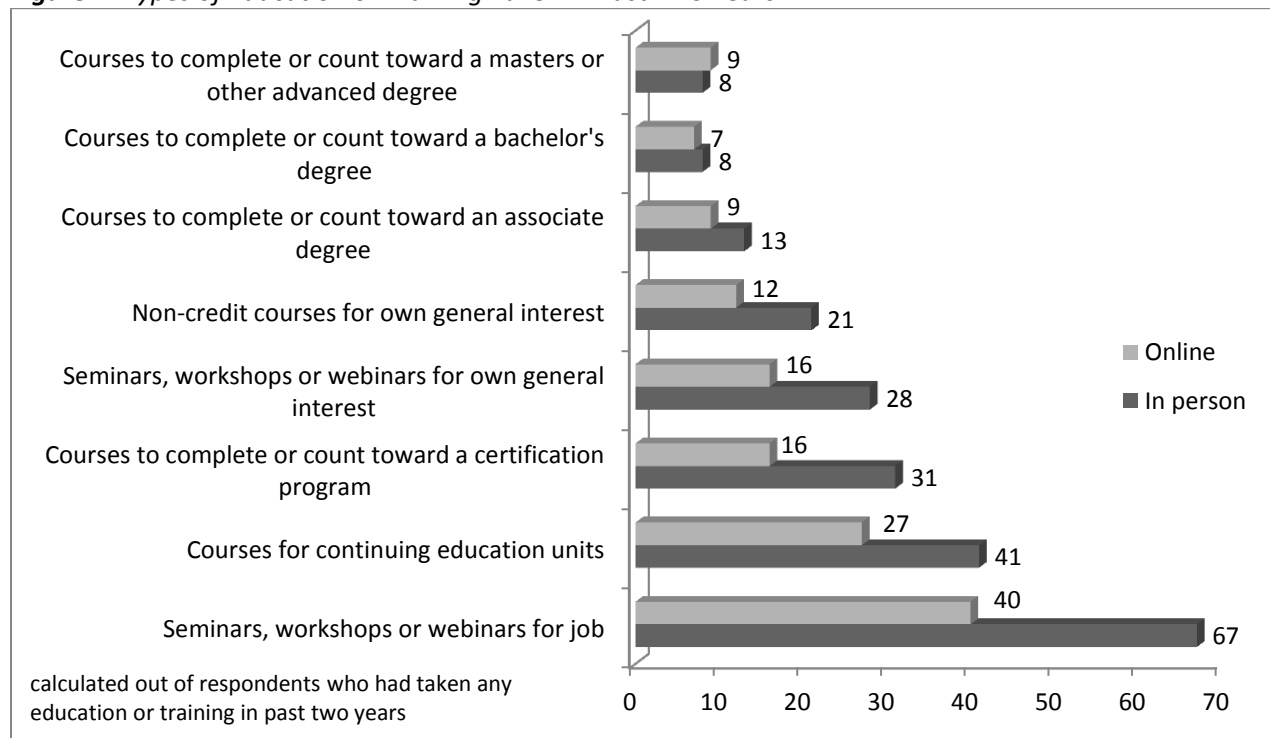
The respondents who indicated they had participated in education or training activities during the past two years were next asked what types they had taken and how they took it (in person or online). Most of the respondents who had taken education or training activities during the past two years have taken in person seminars or workshops for their job. Approximately two-thirds (67%) of persons who had participated in education or training have taken in person job-related seminars or workshops (Figure 2). Many respondents have also taken the following: in person courses for continuing education credits (41%); online webinars for their job (40%); in person courses to complete or count toward a certification program (31%); in person seminars or workshops for their own general interest (28%); online courses for continuing education units (27%); and in person non-credit courses for their own general interest (21%).

(27%); and in person non-credit courses for their own general interest (21%).

Participation in the various types of education or training activities is examined by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Many differences emerge.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to have taken the following types of education or training: in person courses to complete or count toward an associate degree; in person courses to complete or count toward a certification program; and in person seminars or workshops for their job. Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to have participated in online courses for a bachelor's degree and online non-credit courses for their general interest.

Figure 2. Types of Education or Training Taken in Past Two Years



Many regional differences also occur. Residents of both the Panhandle and the North Central region are the groups most likely to have taken in person courses for an associate degree. Panhandle residents are also most likely to have taken online courses for an associate degree.

Residents of both the North Central and South Central regions are most likely to have taken in person courses for a bachelor's degree. Residents of the Northeast region are the group *least* likely to have taken online courses for a bachelor's degree. But, they are the group most likely to have taken in person courses for a masters or other advanced degree and in person courses for continuing education credits. Residents of the Southeast region are the group most likely to have participated in online webinars for their job.

Persons with household incomes ranging from \$20,000 to \$39,999 are the income group most likely to have taken the following: in person courses for an associate degree, in person courses for a bachelor's degree, online courses for a bachelor's degree and in person non-credit courses for their own general interest.

Persons with the highest levels of household income are more likely than persons with less income to have taken the following types of education or training: online courses for a masters or other advanced degree; courses for continuing education units, both in person and online; and seminars, workshops or webinars for their job, both in person and online.

The youngest persons are more likely than older persons to have taken the following: courses for an associate degree, both online and in person; courses for a bachelor's degree, both online and in person; courses for a masters or other advanced degree, both online and in person;

and in person seminars or workshops for their job.

Persons age 40 to 49 are the age group most likely to have taken online courses for a certification program. Persons age 30 to 49 are the age groups most likely to have taken online courses for continuing education units and online seminars, workshops or webinars for their job. Persons age 30 to 39 are the age group most likely to have taken online non-credit courses for their own general interest as well as online webinars for their own general interest. The oldest persons are the group most likely to have taken in person non-credit courses for their own general interest and in person seminars or workshops for their own general interest.

When comparing genders, females are more likely than males to have taken the following types of education or training: online courses for an associate degree; courses for a masters or other advanced degree, both in person and online; courses for continuing education units, both in person and online; and online webinars for their job. Males are more likely than females to have taken in person courses for a certification program.

Persons with some college education but without a four year degree are the education group most likely to have taken courses for an associate degree, both in person and online. Persons with the highest education levels are the group most likely to have taken the following: courses for a masters or other advanced degree, both in person and online; courses for continuing education units, both in person and online; and seminars, workshops, or webinars for their job, both in person and online. Persons without any college education are the group most likely to have taken in persons courses for a certification program.

Many differences also exist by occupation. Persons with food service or personal care occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to have taken courses for an associate degree, both in person and online. They, along with persons with occupations in agriculture, are also most likely to have taken in person non-credit courses for their own general interest.

Persons with management, professional or education occupations are more likely than persons with different occupations to have taken courses for a masters or other advanced degree, both in person and online. Persons with occupations in agriculture are the occupation group most likely to have taken in person courses for a certification program and in person seminars or workshops for their own general interest.

Persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations are the group most likely to have taken courses for continuing education units, both in person and online. They also join persons with occupations in agriculture and persons with management, professional or education occupations as the groups most likely to have taken in person seminars or workshops for their job.

Persons with occupations classified as other are the group most likely to have taken online courses for a certification program. Online webinars for their job are most likely to have been taken by persons with sales or office support occupations. And, persons with occupations in production, transportation or warehousing are the group most likely to have taken online webinars for their own general interest.

Satisfaction with Types of Education or Training

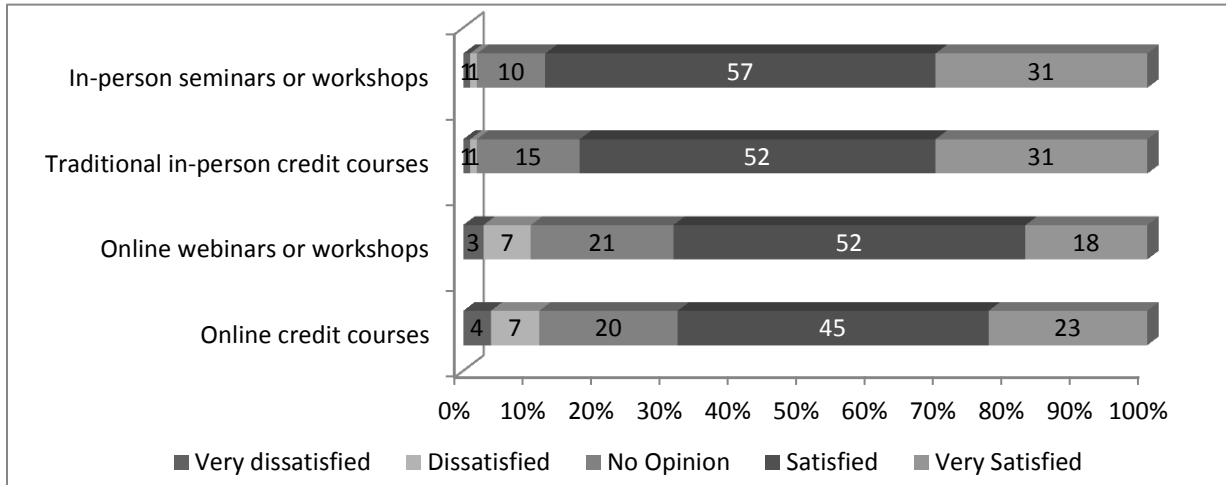
Next, respondents who had taken some education or training in the last two years were asked how satisfied they are with various delivery methods of these courses or activities. Persons who answered does not apply were excluded from the following calculations.

Overall, rural Nebraskans who have taken education or training are satisfied with both online and traditional in-person delivery methods. However, rural Nebraskans are most satisfied with in-person delivery methods. Almost nine in ten persons (88%) are satisfied with in-person seminars or workshops (Figure 3). Just over eight in ten persons (83%) are satisfied with traditional in-person credit courses. Seven in ten persons (70%) are satisfied with online webinars or workshops and just over two-thirds (68%) report satisfaction with online credit courses.

Satisfaction with these delivery methods differ by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Residents of the Southeast region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to be satisfied with online credit courses. Eighty-two percent of Southeast region residents are satisfied with online credit courses, compared to 55 percent of residents of the North Central region.

Persons age 30 to 39 are more likely than persons both younger and older to be satisfied with online credit courses. Eighty-three percent of persons age 30 to 39 report being satisfied with online credit courses, compared to 45 percent of persons age 65 and older (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Satisfaction with Types of Education or Training



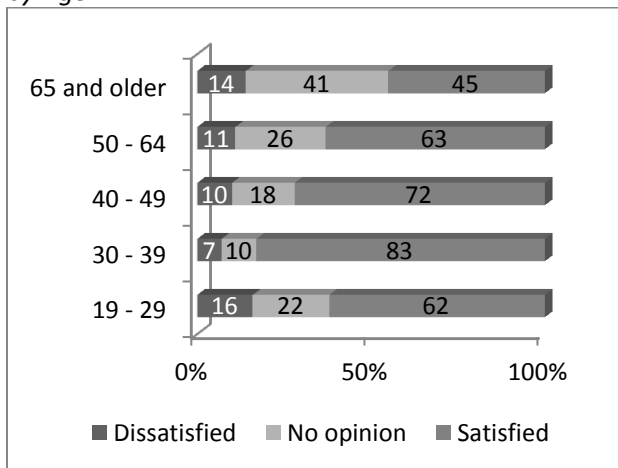
The other groups most likely to express satisfaction with online credit courses include: persons with higher household incomes, females, persons with higher education levels, persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations, and persons with sales or office support occupations.

The groups most likely to report satisfaction with online webinars or workshops include: persons with higher household incomes, females, persons with higher education levels

and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to be satisfied with traditional in-person credit courses. Approximately nine in ten persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more are satisfied with traditional in-person credit courses, compared to 75 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 1,000 to 4,999.

Figure 4. Satisfaction with Online Credit Courses by Age



Other groups most likely to express satisfaction with traditional in-person credit courses include: persons with the highest household incomes, females, persons with higher education levels, persons with sales or office support occupations, and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Persons with the highest household incomes and females are the groups most likely to be satisfied with in-person seminars or workshops.

Opinions about Education

Finally, all respondents were asked if they agree or disagree with various statements about education. Rural Nebraskans believe education is important for individuals as well as the state. Seven in ten rural Nebraskans (70%) agree that getting a college education today is more important than it was 10 years ago (Table 1). And, almost two-thirds (65%) agree that in order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary for a person to get a college education. Just over one-half of rural Nebraskans (53%) agree that increasing the number of people who get college degrees is necessary to build a strong economy.

Rural Nebraskans are confident that higher

education can lead to a good job. While just under one-half (48%) agree that a high school diploma can lead to a good job, at least three-quarters agree that an associate degree (75%) or a bachelor's degree (79%) can lead to a good job.

Rural Nebraskans have mixed opinions about online education. Almost equal proportions both agree (36%) and disagree (34%) that an online course provides an equal educational value compared with a course taken in person in a classroom. However, persons who have taken an online course for a degree program (associate, bachelors, masters or other advanced degree) in the past two years are more likely than those who have not to agree with this statement. Almost one-half (47%) of persons who have taken an online course for a

Table 1. Opinions about Education

	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
Getting a college education today is more important than it was 10 years ago.	2%	13%	14%	38%	32%
In order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary for a person to get a college education.	2	19	14	37	28
I am confident that having a high school diploma can lead to a good job.	5	26	21	36	12
I am confident that having an associate degree (typically a two year degree) can lead to a good job.	1	8	15	62	13
I am confident that having a bachelor's degree (typically a four year degree) can lead to a good job.	1	6	13	54	25
Increasing the number of people who get college degrees is necessary to build a strong economy.	2	18	26	38	15
An online course provides an equal educational value compared with a course taken in person in a classroom.	6	28	30	29	7
Ten years from now, high school students in my community will take most of their classes online.	7	22	31	32	8

degree program in the past two years agree that an online course provides an equal educational value as a course taken in a classroom. Just over one-third (36%) of the recent online course takers disagree with the statement.

When looking ten years into the future, many rural Nebraskans believe high school students in their community will take most of their classes online. Four in ten rural Nebraskans (40%) agree with that statement. Almost three in ten (29%) disagree.

The opinions about education vary by community size, region and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 5). Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to agree that getting a college education today is more important than it was 10 years ago. Other groups most likely to agree with this statement include females and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

The latter two groups (females and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations) are the two groups most likely to agree that in order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary for a person to get a college education.

Persons living in or near smaller communities are more likely than persons living in or near larger communities to agree that they are confident that having a high school diploma can lead to a good job. Just over one-half (54%) of persons living in or near communities with less than 500 people agree with this statement, compared to 41 percent of persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 5,000 to 9,999.

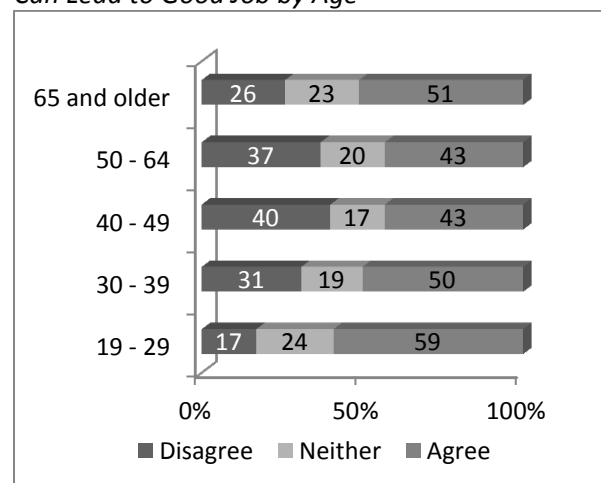
Younger persons are more likely than older persons to agree that having a high school diploma can lead to a good job. Almost six in ten persons age 19 to 29 (59%) agree with this statement, compared to 43 percent of persons age 40 to 64 (Figure 5).

Other groups most likely to agree that they are confident that having a high school diploma can lead to a good job include: persons with lower household incomes, persons with lower education levels and persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations.

Persons with some college education (but not a four year degree) are more likely than persons with different education levels to agree that they are confident that having an associate degree can lead to a good job. Eighty percent of persons with this level of education agree with the statement, compared to 73 percent of persons with both less and more education.

Other groups most likely to agree with this statement include: persons with higher household incomes; persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations;

Figure 5. Confident that High School Diploma Can Lead to Good Job by Age



persons with occupations in agriculture; and persons with occupations classified as other.

Persons with at least a four year degree are more likely than persons with less education to agree that they are confident that having a bachelor’s degree can lead to a good job. Eighty-five percent of persons with at least a four year degree agree with this statement, compared to 73 percent of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

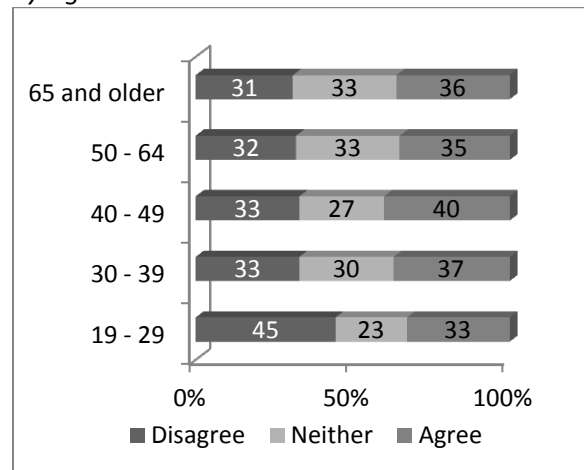
Other groups most likely to agree that having a bachelor’s degree can lead to a good job include persons with the highest household incomes and persons with construction, installation or maintenance occupations.

Females, persons with the highest education levels and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations are the groups most likely to agree that increasing the number of people who get college degrees is necessary to build a strong economy.

Persons age 40 to 49 are more likely than persons of different ages to agree that an online course provides an equal educational value compared with a course taken in person in a classroom. Forty percent of persons age 40 to 49 agree with this statement, compared to 33 percent of persons age 19 to 29 (Figure 6). The youngest persons are the age group most likely to *disagree* with the statement (45%).

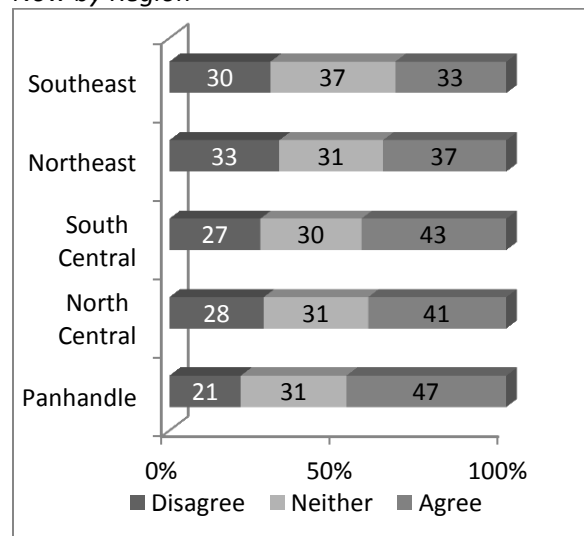
The other groups most likely to agree that an online course provides an equal educational value compared with a course taken in person in a classroom include: persons with the lowest household incomes, females, persons with a high school diploma or less education, persons with sales or office support occupations, and persons with production, transportation or warehousing occupations.

Figure 6. Online Course Provides Equal Educational Value as Course Taken in Classroom by Age



Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree that high school students in their community will take most of their classes online ten years from now. Almost one-half (47%) of Panhandle residents agree with this statement, compared to 33 percent of persons living in the Southeast region of the state (Figure 7).

Figure 7. High School Students in Community Will Take Most Classes Online Ten Years from Now by Region



The other groups most likely to agree that high school students in their community will take most of their classes online ten years from now include: persons with lower household incomes, persons age 30 to 39, females, persons with some college education (but not a four year degree), persons with food service or personal care occupations, and persons with healthcare support or public safety occupations.

Conclusion

Many rural Nebraskans have participated in education or training activities during the past two years. Most of those have taken job-related seminars or workshops. Many have also taken other job-related training including: online webinars, courses for continuing education units and courses for a certification program. Many have also participated in education for their own general interest, including seminars and workshops as well as non-credit courses.

Overall, most rural Nebraskans who have taken education or training are satisfied with both online and traditional in-person delivery methods. However, rural Nebraskans are most satisfied with in-person delivery methods.

Rural Nebraskans believe a college education is important for individuals and for building a strong economy. Seven in ten rural Nebraskans agree that getting a college education today is more important than it was 10 years ago. And, almost two-thirds agree that in order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary for a person to get a college education. Just over one-half of rural Nebraskans agree that increasing the number of people who get college degrees is necessary to build a strong economy.

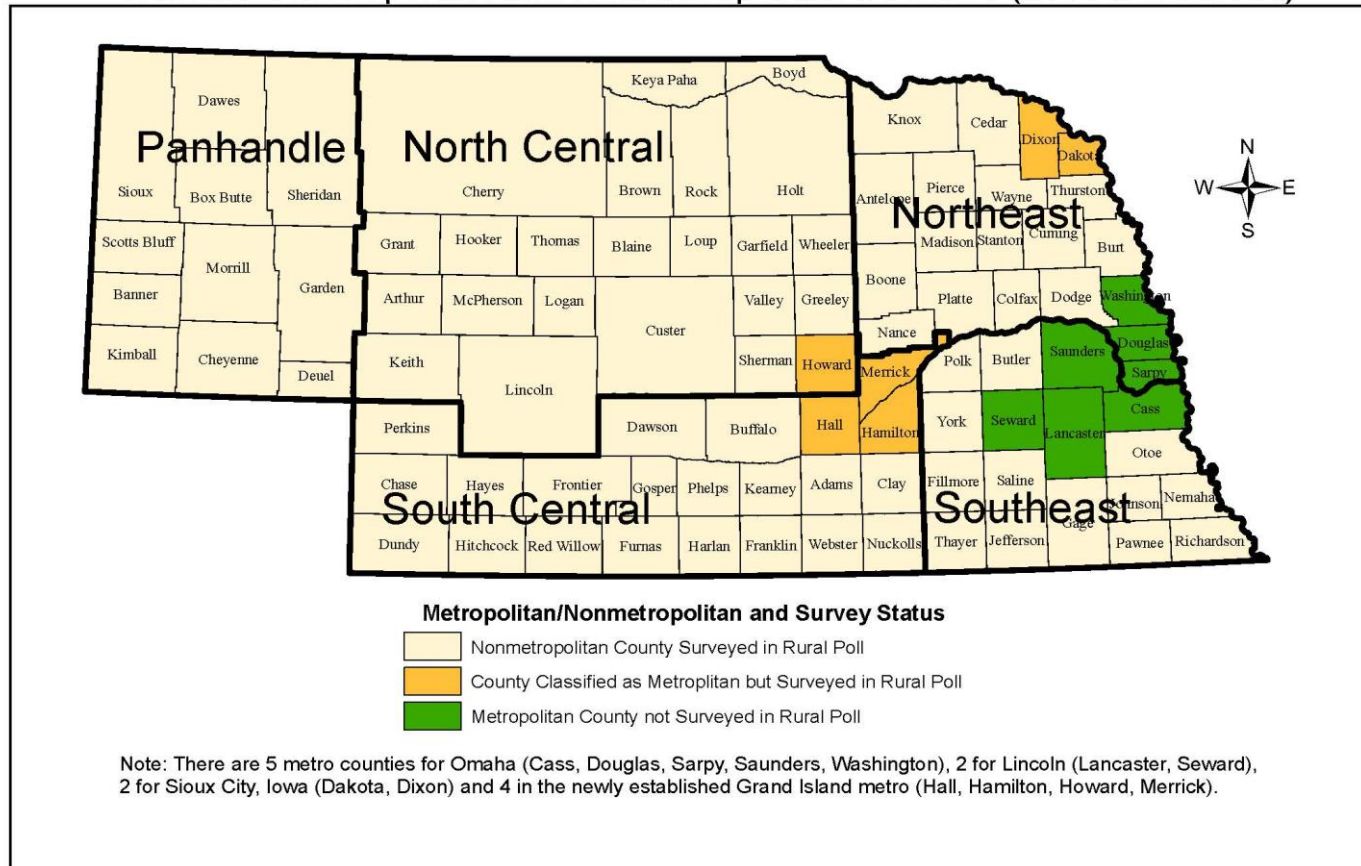
Rural Nebraskans are confident that higher education can lead to a good job. While just under one-half agree that a high school diploma can lead to a good job, at least three-quarters agree that an associate degree or a bachelor's degree can lead to a good job.

Rural Nebraskans have mixed opinions about online education. Almost equal proportions both agree and disagree that an online course provides an equal educational value compared with a course taken in person in a classroom. But, those with experience with such courses (persons who have taken an online course for a degree program in the past two years) are more likely than those who have not to see the value in online education. However, the youngest persons (the ones who would presumably be more familiar with technology and online courses) are the age group most likely to *disagree* with this statement.

When looking ten years into the future, many rural Nebraskans believe high school students in their community will take most of their classes online. Residents of the Panhandle are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to agree with that statement.

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska

Nebraska Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties (2013 Definitions)



Source: 2013 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Definitions, Office of Management and Budget, released 2-28-13
 Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - August 11, 2014

Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents¹ Compared to 2009 – 2013 American Community Survey 5 Year Average for Nebraska*

	<i>2015 Poll</i>	<i>2014 Poll</i>	<i>2013 Poll</i>	<i>2012 Poll</i>	<i>2011 Poll</i>	<i>2010 Poll</i>	<i>2009 - 2013 ACS</i>
Age : ²							
20 - 39	31%	32%	31%	31%	31%	32%	31%
40 - 64	45%	46%	44%	44%	44%	44%	45%
65 and over	24%	23%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%
Gender: ³							
Female	58%	57%	51%	61%	60%	59%	51%
Male	42%	43%	49%	39%	40%	41%	49%
Education: ⁴							
Less than 9 th grade	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%
9 th to 12 th grade (no diploma)	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	7%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	22%	18%	23%	22%	26%	25%	34%
Some college, no degree	23%	23%	25%	25%	23%	25%	26%
Associate degree	15%	16%	15%	15%	16%	14%	10%
Bachelors degree	24%	24%	22%	24%	19%	20%	13%
Graduate or professional degree	13%	16%	12%	11%	12%	11%	5%
Household Income: ⁵							
Less than \$10,000	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	7%	7%	7%	10%	10%	10%	12%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	9%	8%	13%	11%	13%	13%	12%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	9%	14%	10%	10%	14%	12%	12%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	12%	12%	15%	12%	11%	13%	11%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	11%	13%	10%	13%	12%	11%	10%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	15%	13%	11%	14%	12%	13%	11%
\$75,000 or more	32%	29%	29%	25%	22%	23%	26%
Marital Status: ⁶							
Married	68%	68%	70%	70%	66%	71%	62%
Never married	13%	12%	12%	10%	14%	9%	17%
Divorced/separated	10%	12%	9%	11%	11%	11%	12%
Widowed/widower	8%	8%	9%	10%	10%	9%	8%

¹ Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

² 2009-2013 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

³ 2009-2013 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

⁴ 2009-2013 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 18 years of age and over.

⁵ 2009-2013 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

⁶ 2009-2013 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.

Appendix Table 2. Participation in Education Activities During Past Two Years by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

		<i>Have you participated in any formal education courses, workshops, webinars or other training activities during the past two years?</i>		
		<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Significance</i>
Total		48	52	
		<i>Percentages</i>		
Community Size		(n = 1859)		
Less than 500		53	47	
500 - 999		43	57	
1,000 - 4,999		47	53	$\chi^2 = 8.02$
5,000 - 9,999		47	53	(.091)
10,000 and up		51	49	
Region		(n = 1898)		
Panhandle		47	53	
North Central		53	47	
South Central		47	53	$\chi^2 = 4.28$
Northeast		49	51	(.369)
Southeast		45	55	
Income Level		(n = 1742)		
Under \$20,000		20	80	
\$20,000 - \$39,999		35	65	$\chi^2 = 145.71^*$
\$40,000 - \$59,999		48	52	(.000)
\$60,000 and over		62	38	
Age		(n = 1902)		
19 - 29		67	33	
30 - 39		63	38	
40 - 49		58	42	$\chi^2 = 213.39^*$
50 - 64		46	54	(.000)
65 and older		21	80	
Gender		(n = 1868)		
Male		43	57	$\chi^2 = 14.78^*$
Female		52	48	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 1858)		
Married		53	47	
Never married		50	50	
Divorced/separated		41	59	$\chi^2 = 70.64^*$
Widowed		17	83	(.000)
Education		(n = 1868)		
H.S. diploma or less		18	82	
Some college		47	53	$\chi^2 = 295.01^*$
Bachelors or grad degree		70	30	(.000)

***Have you participated in any formal education courses, workshops,
webinars or other training activities during the past two years?***

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Significance</u>
	(n = 1384)		
Mgt, prof or education	77	23	
Sales or office support	43	57	
Constrn, inst or maint	35	65	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	31	69	
Agriculture	50	50	
Food serv/pers. care	35	65	
Hlthcare supp/safety	72	28	$\chi^2 = 200.36^*$
Other	33	67	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3. Types of Education Taken in Past Two Years by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	<i>Courses to complete or count toward an associate degree</i>		<i>Courses to complete or count toward a bachelors degree</i>		<i>Courses to complete or count toward a masters or other advanced degree</i>	
	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>
	<i>Percentage selecting each item</i>					
Total	13	9	8	7	8	9
Community Size	(n = 901)	(n = 902)	(n = 900)	(n = 900)	(n = 902)	(n = 899)
Less than 500	20	10	12	4	13	11
500 - 999	14	13	4	6	10	11
1,000 - 4,999	9	7	7	3	5	7
5,000 - 9,999	5	12	4	12	9	11
10,000 and up	15	8	10	11	7	7
<i>Significance</i>	(.004)*	(.468)	(.057)	(.001)*	(.053)	(.399)
Region	(n = 903)	(n = 905)	(n = 904)	(n = 905)	(n = 905)	(n = 904)
Panhandle	20	17	10	8	5	5
North Central	21	12	12	9	10	11
South Central	11	8	12	10	6	9
Northeast	11	5	5	3	14	11
Southeast	10	11	2	7	4	6
<i>Significance</i>	(.005)*	(.003)*	(.001)*	(.041)*	(.003)*	(.253)
Income Level	(n = 850)	(n = 849)	(n = 848)	(n = 849)	(n = 849)	(n = 849)
Under \$20,000	13	16	5	11	5	5
\$20,000 - \$39,999	26	10	20	17	5	3
\$40,000 - \$59,999	23	12	10	4	11	4
\$60,000 and over	8	8	6	6	8	12
<i>Significance</i>	(.000)*	(.273)	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.294)	(.000)*
Age	(n = 906)	(n = 906)	(n = 906)	(n = 905)	(n = 906)	(n = 903)
19 - 29	29	17	19	11	15	11
30 - 39	10	8	7	12	11	16
40 - 49	12	8	7	7	8	11
50 - 64	6	8	3	3	2	2
65 and older	5	1	2	0	3	0
<i>Significance</i>	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.000)*
Gender	(n = 896)	(n = 895)	(n = 896)	(n = 896)	(n = 896)	(n = 896)
Male	15	5	8	6	5	5
Female	12	12	8	7	10	11
<i>Significance</i>	(.219)	(.000)*	(.448)	(.312)	(.008)*	(.002)*
Education	(n = 899)	(n = 900)	(n = 899)	(n = 900)	(n = 899)	(n = 900)
H.S. diploma or less	6	4	3	6	5	5
Some college	24	17	9	6	3	2
Bachelors degree	7	4	8	8	12	14
<i>Significance</i>	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.134)	(.420)	(.000)*	(.000)*
Occupation	(n = 792)	(n = 791)	(n = 793)	(n = 792)	(n = 792)	(n = 792)
Mgt, prof, education	8	7	8	6	13	17
Sales/office support	13	13	6	13	0	3
Const, inst or maint	10	0	10	5	0	0
Prodn/trans/warehcs	15	9	0	9	0	12
Agriculture	17	2	12	2	5	2
Food serv/pers. care	28	28	10	7	0	0
Hlthcare supp/safety	18	9	12	12	4	2
Other	0	21	0	7	0	7
<i>Significance</i>	(.007)*	(.000)*	(.278)	(.081)	(.000)*	(.000)*

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>Courses to complete or count toward a certification program</i>		<i>Courses for continuing education units</i>		<i>Seminars, workshops or webinars for my job</i>	
	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>
	<i>Percentage selecting each item</i>					
Total	31	16	41	27	67	40
Community Size	(n = 900)	(n = 901)	(n = 900)	(n = 901)	(n = 900)	(n = 901)
Less than 500	41	18	46	30	74	36
500 - 999	24	14	32	22	57	38
1,000 - 4,999	33	16	41	24	63	42
5,000 - 9,999	25	22	37	30	64	44
10,000 and up	30	14	41	26	71	41
<i>Significance</i>	(.013)*	(.371)	(.225)	(.563)	(.010)*	(.662)
Region	(n = 904)	(n = 904)	(n = 904)	(n = 904)	(n = 904)	(n = 903)
Panhandle	28	12	31	19	68	36
North Central	35	16	34	26	68	34
South Central	31	14	40	27	69	39
Northeast	35	18	49	26	69	39
Southeast	24	19	42	33	61	55
<i>Significance</i>	(.157)	(.417)	(.011)*	(.183)	(.522)	(.004)*
Income Level	(n = 849)	(n = 849)	(n = 849)	(n = 848)	(n = 850)	(n = 849)
Under \$20,000	26	18	18	8	42	16
\$20,000 - \$39,999	37	9	23	15	64	29
\$40,000 - \$59,999	37	17	39	24	70	34
\$60,000 and over	29	17	47	30	70	47
<i>Significance</i>	(.103)	(.196)	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.003)*	(.000)*
Age	(n = 906)	(n = 903)	(n = 904)	(n = 905)	(n = 905)	(n = 906)
19 - 29	37	10	40	25	77	37
30 - 39	32	16	37	30	69	48
40 - 49	27	22	45	31	63	45
50 - 64	32	19	40	25	67	41
65 and older	26	9	40	15	53	20
<i>Significance</i>	(.218)	(.003)*	(.542)	(.049)*	(.001)*	(.000)*
Gender	(n = 896)	(n = 897)	(n = 896)	(n = 896)	(n = 895)	(n = 895)
Male	37	15	36	21	71	36
Female	28	17	43	30	66	43
<i>Significance</i>	(.006)*	(.209)	(.037)*	(.002)*	(.061)	(.019)*
Education	(n = 899)	(n = 900)	(n = 901)	(n = 900)	(n = 900)	(n = 900)
H.S. diploma or less	41	19	30	24	64	34
Some college	35	14	37	18	60	34
Bachelors degree	27	17	45	33	72	46
<i>Significance</i>	(.009)*	(.370)	(.007)*	(.000)*	(.001)*	(.001)*
Occupation	(n = 792)	(n = 792)	(n = 791)	(n = 793)	(n = 791)	(n = 794)
Mgt, prof, education	27	16	43	28	75	49
Sales/office support	22	18	31	18	54	56
Const, inst or maint	42	10	42	10	68	23
Prodn/trans/warehs	15	24	27	21	70	27
Agriculture	47	19	32	23	73	29
Food serv/pers. care	21	0	28	0	55	7
Hlthcare supp/safety	44	21	61	47	75	49
Other	21	36	43	29	50	29
<i>Significance</i>	(.000)*	(.043)*	(.000)*	(.000)*	(.005)*	(.000)*

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3 continued.

	<i>Non-credit courses for my own general interest</i>		<i>Seminars, workshops or webinars for my own general interest</i>	
	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>
	<i>Percentage selecting each item</i>			
Total	21	12	28	16
Community Size	(n = 901)	(n = 901)	(n = 900)	(n = 901)
Less than 500	24	10	28	13
500 - 999	22	14	28	14
1,000 - 4,999	18	8	26	15
5,000 - 9,999	19	22	28	26
10,000 and up	23	11	29	17
<i>Significance</i>	(.579)	(.010)*	(.982)	(.071)
Region	(n = 906)	(n = 904)	(n = 906)	(n = 904)
Panhandle	25	14	29	12
North Central	19	12	29	17
South Central	24	10	28	17
Northeast	20	12	27	16
Southeast	19	13	27	19
<i>Significance</i>	(.580)	(.778)	(.986)	(.746)
Income Level	(n = 849)	(n = 850)	(n = 849)	(n = 850)
Under \$20,000	26	8	34	5
\$20,000 - \$39,999	33	15	31	17
\$40,000 - \$59,999	22	12	26	14
\$60,000 and over	18	11	26	18
<i>Significance</i>	(.004)*	(.577)	(.500)	(.121)
Age	(n = 906)	(n = 906)	(n = 905)	(n = 906)
19 - 29	15	6	15	6
30 - 39	14	18	25	27
40 - 49	21	11	30	17
50 - 64	25	13	32	17
65 and older	38	10	47	15
<i>Significance</i>	(.000)*	(.007)*	(.000)*	(.000)*
Gender	(n = 896)	(n = 895)	(n = 896)	(n = 896)
Male	21	14	31	18
Female	21	10	26	15
<i>Significance</i>	(.508)	(.068)	(.069)	(.116)
Education	(n = 900)	(n = 900)	(n = 900)	(n = 900)
H.S. diploma or less	21	10	22	15
Some college	24	11	28	14
Bachelors degree	19	12	28	18
<i>Significance</i>	(.203)	(.828)	(.504)	(.245)
Occupation	(n = 794)	(n = 792)	(n = 794)	(n = 792)
Mgt, prof, education	21	12	30	20
Sales/office support	24	13	21	13
Const, inst or maint	18	5	21	5
Prodn/trans/warehs	21	24	32	27
Agriculture	30	7	38	14
Food serv/pers. care	31	7	31	0
Hlthcare supp/safety	9	13	12	15
Other	0	29	0	21
<i>Significance</i>	(.001)*	(.051)	(.000)*	(.024)*

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Table 4. Satisfaction with Types of Education by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	<i>Online credit courses</i>				<i>Online webinars or workshops</i>			
	<i>No Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Opinion Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Percentages</i>	<i>No Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Opinion Satisfied</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
Total	11	20	68		9	21	70	
Community Size	(n = 524)				(n = 647)			
Less than 500	15	21	64		7	19	74	
500 - 999	7	28	65		10	27	64	
1,000 - 4,999	15	23	62		9	28	63	
5,000 - 9,999	8	19	73	$\chi^2 = 9.54$	3	25	72	$\chi^2 = 20.32^*$
10,000 and up	11	16	73	(.299)	13	14	73	(.009)
Region	(n = 527)				(n = 649)			
Panhandle	8	19	73		9	28	64	
North Central	21	24	55		15	22	63	
South Central	15	22	63		10	21	70	
Northeast	6	20	74	$\chi^2 = 24.96^*$	7	22	72	$\chi^2 = 13.12$
Southeast	4	14	82	(.002)	7	13	79	(.108)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 504)				(n = 613)			
Under \$20,000	6	31	63		6	39	56	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	21	19	60		7	25	68	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	12	30	58	$\chi^2 = 18.90^*$	14	33	53	$\chi^2 = 30.17^*$
\$60,000 and over	10	16	74	(.004)	9	15	76	(.000)
Age	(n = 526)				(n = 651)			
19 - 29	16	22	62		10	28	62	
30 - 39	7	10	83		10	13	77	
40 - 49	10	18	72		7	18	75	
50 - 64	11	26	63	$\chi^2 = 27.55^*$	9	24	67	$\chi^2 = 13.67$
65 and older	14	41	45	(.001)	11	25	64	(.091)
Gender	(n = 524)				(n = 645)			
Male	16	36	48	$\chi^2 = 57.21^*$	14	31	55	$\chi^2 = 37.46^*$
Female	9	12	79	(.000)	6	16	78	(.000)
Education	(n = 524)				(n = 647)			
H.S. diploma or less	9	34	57		11	26	64	
Some college	15	28	57	$\chi^2 = 22.99^*$	11	31	59	$\chi^2 = 23.62^*$
Bachelors/grad degree	10	14	76	(.000)	8	15	76	(.000)
Occupation	(n = 479)				(n = 581)			
Mgt, prof or education	10	13	78		9	13	77	
Sales or office support	6	14	81		9	17	75	
Constrn, inst or maint	11	68	21		10	62	29	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	19	24	57		15	19	67	
Agriculture	25	40	36		17	33	50	
Food serv/pers. care	24	47	29		20	60	20	
Hlthcare supp/safety	5	14	80	$\chi^2 = 88.21^*$	1	18	82	$\chi^2 = 86.45^*$
Other	14**	14**	71**	(.000)	33**	17**	50**	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level

Those who answered “does not apply” were excluded from this analysis.

** Row percentages are calculated using row total with less than 10 respondents.

Appendix Table 4 continued.

	<i>Traditional in-person credit courses</i>				<i>In-person seminars or workshops</i>			
	<i>No</i>		<i>Significance</i>	<i>Percentages</i>	<i>No</i>		<i>Significance</i>	
	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Opinion Satisfied</i>			<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Opinion Satisfied</i>		
Total	2	15	83		3	10	88	
Community Size	(n = 607)				(n = 776)			
Less than 500	5	17	78		3	11	86	
500 - 999	0	20	80		3	11	86	
1,000 - 4,999	2	23	75		2	10	88	
5,000 - 9,999	3	8	89	$\chi^2 = 23.66^*$	1	10	89	$\chi^2 = 2.78$
10,000 and up	2	8	90	(.003)	4	9	88	(.947)
Region	(n = 610)				(n = 779)			
Panhandle	3	18	79		1	8	91	
North Central	5	15	81		3	7	90	
South Central	2	15	84		2	12	87	
Northeast	2	15	83	$\chi^2 = 4.03$	4	11	85	$\chi^2 = 8.02$
Southeast	3	11	85	(.855)	2	7	91	(.432)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 575)				(n = 731)			
Under \$20,000	5	27	68		3	16	81	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	0	19	81		2	15	83	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	3	22	75	$\chi^2 = 18.97^*$	6	11	83	$\chi^2 = 16.65^*$
\$60,000 and over	3	10	88	(.004)	2	7	92	(.011)
Age	(n = 610)				(n = 781)			
19 - 29	0	14	86		3	7	90	
30 - 39	2	12	86		1	12	87	
40 - 49	2	13	85		3	8	89	
50 - 64	5	18	78	$\chi^2 = 12.93$	3	11	87	$\chi^2 = 5.70$
65 and older	6	18	76	(.114)	5	11	84	(.681)
Gender	(n = 603)				(n = 770)			
Male	3	27	70	$\chi^2 = 44.27^*$	4	17	79	$\chi^2 = 33.31^*$
Female	2	8	90	(.000)	2	6	93	(.000)
Education	(n = 604)				(n = 775)			
H.S. diploma or less	8	24	68		6	16	78	
Some college	2	19	79	$\chi^2 = 20.20^*$	2	11	87	$\chi^2 = 8.42$
Bachelors/grad degree	2	10	88	(.000)	2	8	89	(.077)
Occupation	(n = 537)				(n = 684)			
Mgt, prof or education	1	14	85		2	9	89	
Sales or office support	5	5	90		2	10	88	
Constrn, inst or maint	7	37	56		6	9	85	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	9	9	83		0	14	86	
Agriculture	6	26	69		4	12	85	
Food serv/pers. care	4	22	74		4	11	85	
Hlthcare supp/safety	1	8	91	$\chi^2 = 40.72^*$	1	8	91	$\chi^2 = 8.42$
Other	0**	13**	88**	(.000)	0**	25**	75**	(.866)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Those who answered "does not apply" were excluded from this analysis.

** Row percentages are calculated using row total with less than 10 respondents.

Appendix Table 5. Opinions about Education by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	<i>Getting a college education today is more important than it was 10 years ago.</i>				<i>In order to get ahead in life these days, it's necessary for a person to get a college education.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Total	16	14	70		21	14	65	
Community Size	(n = 1879)				(n = 1874)			
Less than 500	14	18	69		20	18	62	
500 - 999	15	16	69		22	16	63	
1,000 - 4,999	15	17	68		25	12	63	
5,000 - 9,999	15	14	71	$\chi^2 = 15.96^*$	19	13	69	$\chi^2 = 14.97$
10,000 and up	18	10	72	(.043)	22	11	67	(.060)
Region	(n = 1922)				(n = 1916)			
Panhandle	17	16	67		23	17	60	
North Central	19	11	70		25	12	64	
South Central	15	14	71		20	14	66	
Northeast	15	15	70	$\chi^2 = 6.23$	22	11	67	$\chi^2 = 9.79$
Southeast	13	14	73	(.621)	20	16	65	(.280)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 1765)				(n = 1758)			
Under \$20,000	12	17	71		17	17	66	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	17	13	70		25	12	63	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	17	14	70	$\chi^2 = 3.83$	22	14	64	$\chi^2 = 9.00$
\$60,000 and over	16	14	70	(.700)	20	12	67	(.174)
Age	(n = 1925)				(n = 1921)			
19 - 29	17	15	68		20	13	68	
30 - 39	18	15	66		22	14	64	
40 - 49	16	15	70		19	12	70	
50 - 64	17	13	70	$\chi^2 = 14.47$	23	13	64	$\chi^2 = 9.74$
65 and older	10	14	75	(.070)	22	17	61	(.283)
Gender	(n = 1890)				(n = 1884)			
Male	18	17	65	$\chi^2 = 17.95^*$	27	13	60	$\chi^2 = 23.61^*$
Female	14	12	74	(.000)	18	13	69	(.000)
Education	(n = 1887)				(n = 1882)			
H.S. diploma or less	15	14	72		22	16	62	
Some college	16	15	69	$\chi^2 = 1.19$	23	14	63	$\chi^2 = 10.33^*$
Bachelors/grad degree	16	14	70	(.880)	20	11	69	(.035)
Occupation	(n = 1396)				(n = 1394)			
Mgt, prof or education	19	11	70		20	11	69	
Sales or office support	12	15	72		18	16	66	
Constrn, inst or maint	21	20	59		27	12	62	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	18	17	65		24	18	58	
Agriculture	14	23	63		29	18	53	
Food serv/pers. care	18	21	61		25	16	60	
Hlthcare supp/safety	15	10	76	$\chi^2 = 33.80^*$	17	8	76	$\chi^2 = 35.20^*$
Other	23	14	64	(.002)	32	14	55	(.001)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5 continued.

	<i>I am confident that having a high school diploma can lead to a good job.</i>			<i>Significance</i>	<i>I am confident that having an associate degree (typically a two year degree) can lead to a good job.</i>			<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>		<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Total	31	21	48		10	15	75	
Community Size	(n = 1869)				(n = 1872)			
Less than 500	30	16	54		9	12	79	
500 - 999	23	29	48		8	14	78	
1,000 - 4,999	33	20	48		9	18	73	
5,000 - 9,999	37	22	41	$\chi^2 = 24.92^*$	16	19	66	$\chi^2 = 24.57^*$
10,000 and up	31	21	48	(.002)	10	12	78	(.002)
Region	(n = 1909)				(n = 1912)			
Panhandle	24	24	52		14	15	71	
North Central	29	19	52		7	15	78	
South Central	34	20	46		11	15	74	
Northeast	29	21	50	$\chi^2 = 11.38$	8	14	78	$\chi^2 = 12.61$
Southeast	33	20	46	(.181)	9	15	76	(.126)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 1755)				(n = 1758)			
Under \$20,000	26	19	55		9	24	67	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	26	21	54		13	13	74	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	29	24	48	$\chi^2 = 19.92^*$	11	11	79	$\chi^2 = 26.47^*$
\$60,000 and over	36	20	45	(.003)	8	15	77	(.000)
Age	(n = 1914)				(n = 1920)			
19 - 29	17	24	59		10	15	75	
30 - 39	31	19	50		12	14	74	
40 - 49	40	17	43		11	13	77	
50 - 64	37	20	43	$\chi^2 = 55.74^*$	10	16	74	$\chi^2 = 10.07$
65 and older	26	23	51	(.000)	7	16	78	(.260)
Gender	(n = 1880)				(n = 1883)			
Male	28	23	49	$\chi^2 = 8.11^*$	9	17	75	$\chi^2 = 5.36$
Female	33	19	47	(.017)	11	14	76	(.069)
Education	(n = 1879)				(n = 1881)			
H.S. diploma or less	18	22	60		8	19	73	
Some college	29	20	52	$\chi^2 = 86.52^*$	9	11	80	$\chi^2 = 18.39^*$
Bachelors/grad degree	42	22	37	(.000)	12	15	73	(.001)
Occupation	(n = 1391)				(n = 1391)			
Mgt, prof or education	38	20	42		11	12	77	
Sales or office support	28	20	53		7	22	71	
Constrn, inst or maint	21	19	60		5	15	80	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	25	18	57		13	12	76	
Agriculture	27	24	50		6	15	79	
Food serv/pers. care	29	14	57		14	26	60	
Hlthcare supp/safety	41	19	40	$\chi^2 = 36.98^*$	13	16	71	$\chi^2 = 32.41^*$
Other	27	21	52	(.001)	9	11	80	(.003)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5 continued.

	<i>I am confident that having a bachelor's degree (typically a four year degree) can lead to a good job.</i>			<i>Significance</i>	<i>Increasing the number of people who get college degrees is necessary to build a strong economy.</i>			<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>		<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	
Total	8	13	79		21	26	53	
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Community Size	(n = 1868)				(n = 1866)			
Less than 500	7	10	83		23	27	51	
500 - 999	8	18	74		28	25	47	
1,000 - 4,999	7	14	79		21	26	53	
5,000 - 9,999	9	12	79	$\chi^2 = 12.39$	15	27	58	$\chi^2 = 13.78$
10,000 and up	8	11	81	(.135)	19	27	55	(.088)
Region	(n = 1910)				(n = 1906)			
Panhandle	10	10	80		23	27	50	
North Central	9	13	78		21	24	55	
South Central	9	14	77		19	26	55	
Northeast	6	13	81	$\chi^2 = 14.30$	23	27	50	$\chi^2 = 6.77$
Southeast	4	13	83	(.074)	18	26	56	(.562)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 1753)				(n = 1754)			
Under \$20,000	10	19	71		15	32	52	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	9	18	73		19	28	54	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	10	10	80	$\chi^2 = 37.01^*$	19	28	53	$\chi^2 = 13.65^*$
\$60,000 and over	6	10	85	(.000)	23	23	54	(.034)
Age	(n = 1915)				(n = 1912)			
19 - 29	10	13	78		24	23	53	
30 - 39	10	13	78		22	20	58	
40 - 49	6	9	86		20	25	55	
50 - 64	7	15	78	$\chi^2 = 15.43$	21	30	50	$\chi^2 = 15.32$
65 and older	6	15	79	(.051)	19	28	53	(.053)
Gender	(n = 1878)				(n = 1876)			
Male	9	13	79	$\chi^2 = 1.55$	27	26	47	$\chi^2 = 36.87^*$
Female	7	13	81	(.461)	16	26	58	(.000)
Education	(n = 1877)				(n = 1875)			
H.S. diploma or less	8	19	73		20	30	50	
Some college	8	14	78	$\chi^2 = 33.39^*$	22	29	49	$\chi^2 = 18.29^*$
Bachelors/grad degree	7	8	85	(.000)	20	22	59	(.001)
Occupation	(n = 1388)				(n = 1386)			
Mgt, prof or education	7	8	85		21	19	59	
Sales or office support	6	16	78		16	38	47	
Constrn, inst or maint	2	9	89		26	27	47	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	11	12	77		26	31	43	
Agriculture	9	15	76		31	29	40	
Food serv/pers. care	17	25	59		19	31	50	
Hlthcare supp/safety	6	16	78	$\chi^2 = 50.94^*$	14	24	61	$\chi^2 = 56.30^*$
Other	9	12	79	(.000)	21	21	58	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5 continued.

	<i>An online course provides an equal educational value compared with a course taken in person in a classroom.</i>				<i>Ten years from now, high school students in my community will take most of their classes online.</i>			
	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Significance</i>
	<i>Percentages</i>							
Total	34	30	36		29	31	40	
Community Size	(n = 1863)				(n = 1857)			
Less than 500	33	31	36		29	35	36	
500 - 999	30	34	36		26	32	43	
1,000 - 4,999	31	32	38		28	33	39	
5,000 - 9,999	40	28	32	$\chi^2 = 12.37$	25	31	44	$\chi^2 = 9.07$
10,000 and up	38	27	36	(.136)	32	29	39	(.336)
Region	(n = 1904)				(n = 1893)			
Panhandle	29	31	40		21	31	47	
North Central	34	30	36		28	31	41	
South Central	36	29	35		27	30	43	
Northeast	36	29	35	$\chi^2 = 5.75$	33	31	37	$\chi^2 = 20.95^*$
Southeast	31	31	38	(.675)	30	37	33	(.007)
Individual Attributes:								
Income Level	(n = 1753)				(n = 1743)			
Under \$20,000	19	32	49		18	34	48	
\$20,000 - \$39,999	30	31	39		22	40	38	
\$40,000 - \$59,999	34	33	33	$\chi^2 = 39.24^*$	30	33	38	$\chi^2 = 41.71^*$
\$60,000 and over	40	27	33	(.000)	35	27	38	(.000)
Age	(n = 1909)				(n = 1900)			
19 - 29	45	23	33		30	33	37	
30 - 39	33	30	37		26	21	53	
40 - 49	33	27	40		27	28	45	
50 - 64	32	33	35	$\chi^2 = 24.92^*$	31	34	36	$\chi^2 = 40.36^*$
65 and older	31	33	36	(.002)	28	38	34	(.000)
Gender	(n = 1873)				(n = 1865)			
Male	38	33	29	$\chi^2 = 30.91^*$	35	33	32	$\chi^2 = 40.44^*$
Female	32	27	41	(.000)	24	31	45	(.000)
Education	(n = 1872)				(n = 1865)			
H.S. diploma or less	19	37	44		19	43	38	
Some college	32	31	37	$\chi^2 = 89.97^*$	25	33	42	$\chi^2 = 79.06^*$
Bachelors/grad degree	46	24	30	(.000)	39	23	39	(.000)
Occupation	(n = 1388)				(n = 1382)			
Mgt, prof or education	44	23	33		35	21	45	
Sales or office support	27	32	42		23	40	38	
Constrn, inst or maint	31	41	28		35	38	27	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	33	25	42		24	40	36	
Agriculture	32	44	24		31	43	26	
Food serv/pers. care	25	37	39		11	38	51	
Hlthcare supp/safety	37	23	40	$\chi^2 = 62.66^*$	30	19	51	$\chi^2 = 92.82^*$
Other	32	32	36	(.000)	36	29	36	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

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