

# Board of Trustees Monitoring Report

## **Student Success: Professional/Technical Programs**

### **Board Ends Policy/Strategic Plan Goal**

#### *Board Ends Policy E-4/Strategic Goal #1 – INSTRUCTION & STUDENT SUCCESS*

Provide effective learning options for student success.

1.1 - Evaluate programs and scheduling at all SVC locations, and develop a plan to effectively and efficiently meet community/employer and student needs.

1.3 – Enhance articulation with K-12 and four-year colleges and universities.

1.6 – Research and develop new markets and opportunities to identify curricula and programs that respond to student, employer and community needs, and enrollment targets.

#### *Board Ends Policy E-8/Strategic Goal #5 – ASSESSMENT*

Enhance instruction, student services, and institutional effectiveness through comprehensive assessment processes.

5.4 – Collect and analyze data and information to respond to changing demographics and employer needs in communities throughout the college district.

**April 10, 2007**



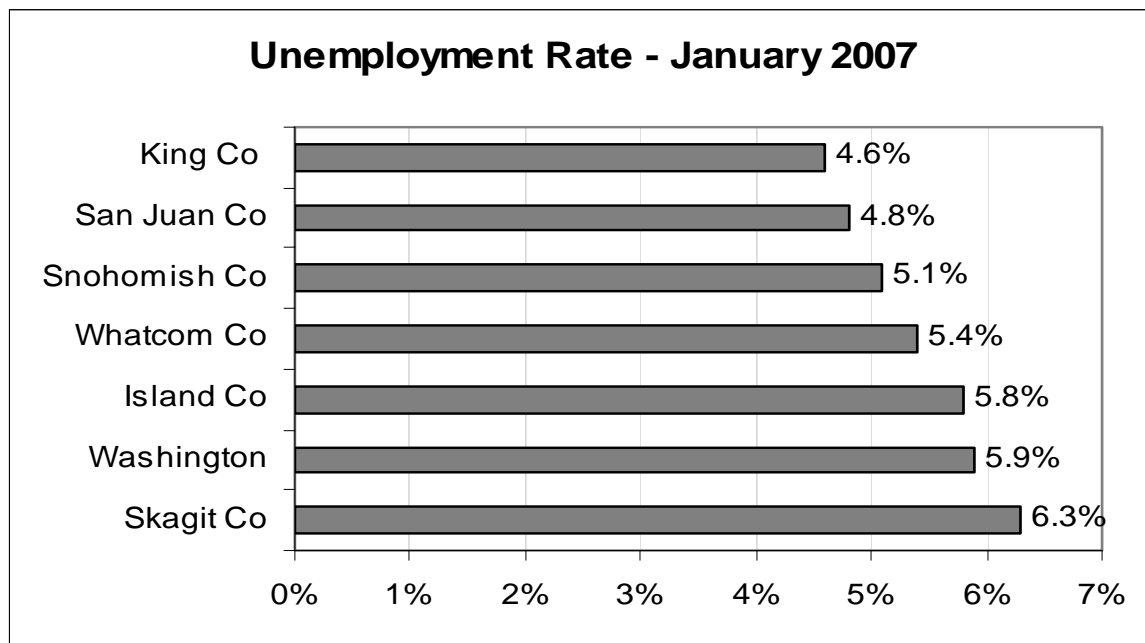
This report provides data associated with student success, including student employment rates and hourly wages after leaving the college. General employment data for the college district is also presented. The section on student engagement will return next year when we have the results from the Spring 2007 administration of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE).

## Section I: Regional Employment Data

The most recent unemployment information (January 2007) for the three counties in the SVC district and selected counties is presented in Figure 1.1. A comparison of the unemployment rates from last year (January 2005) for the SVC district counties is presented in Table 2.1.

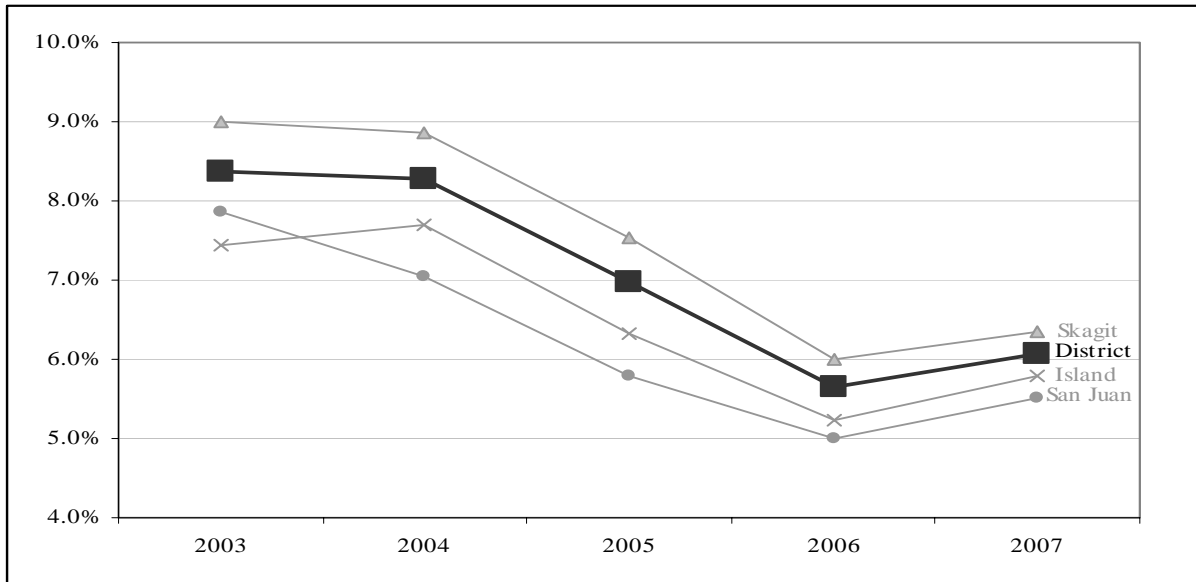
The employment picture for the state and for the SVC district – as measured by unemployment estimates – is similar to last year, after several years of improvement (figure 1.2). The January 2007 unemployment rate for Skagit County is 6.3% compared to 5.6% a year ago.

Figure 1.1: Unemployment Rate for Washington State and Selected Counties, January 2007



Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, Washington Workforce Explorer, [www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com).

Figure 1.2: January Unemployment Rates for SVC District Counties, 2003 – 2007



Source: Washington State Employment Security Department, Washington Workforce Explorer, [www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com). Resident civilian labor force historical unemployment rates.

## Section II: Enrollments

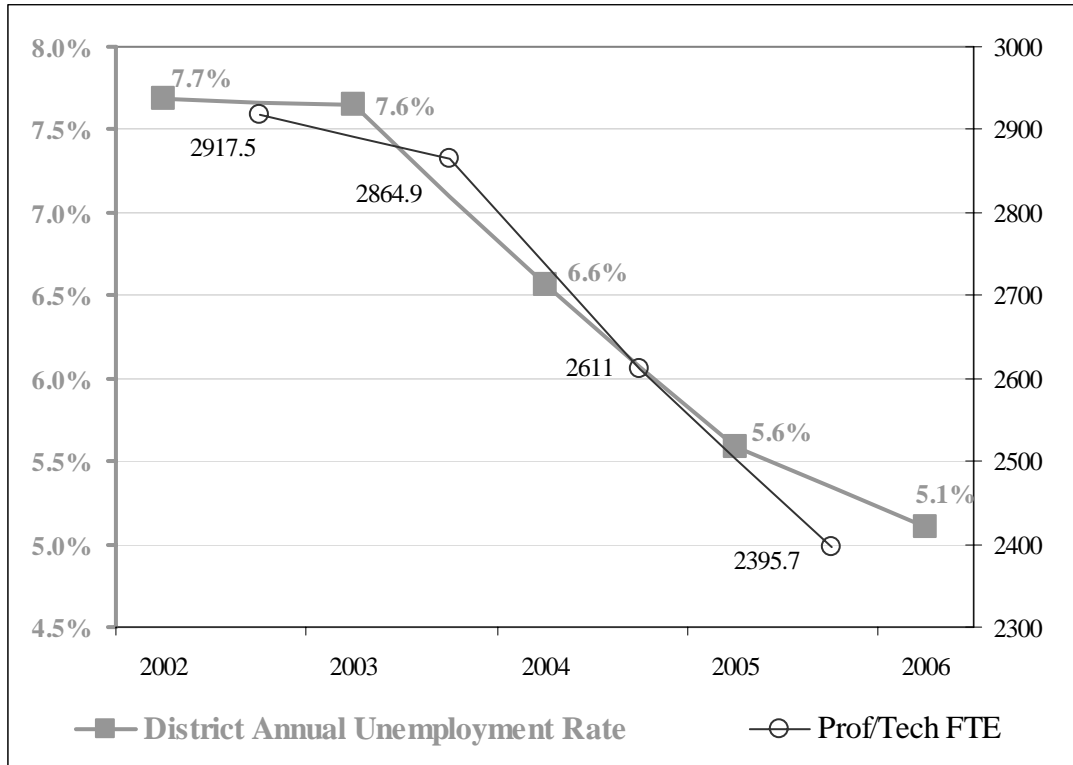
As might be expected in a period of high employment, the enrollments of students at the college have declined (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 FTE for SVC & Professional/Technical Programs

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total SVC	14168.5	14166.8	13383.3	12887.6
Professional/Technical FTEs	2917.5	2864.9	2611	2395.7
Prof/Tech Percent of SVC Total	20.6%	20.2%	19.5%	18.6%

The relationship between unemployment rates for the counties in the district and enrollments are presented in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1 District Annual Unemployment Rate and Professional-Technical FTEs



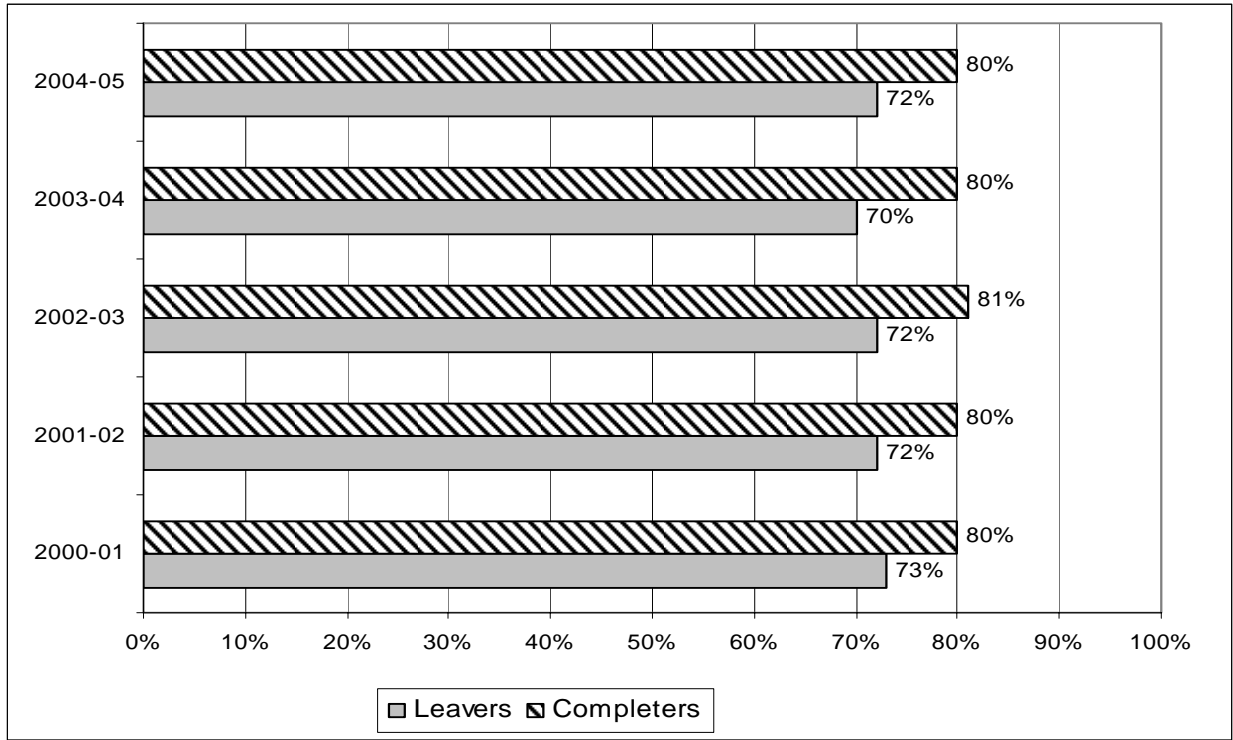
### Section III: Student Progress & Attainment

The data in this section were derived from the SBCTC database that links students to the Unemployment Insurance records for Washington as well as several other states. This allows colleges to get valid employment information; however, the process creates a significant time lag. The most current data is for the job preparatory students who left SVC during 2004-05. The total number of cases in the SVC database is 959.

#### Employment Rates

Figure 3.1 presents the employment rates calculated by the SBCTC for the college for both completers and leavers. Eighty percent (80%) of the students who completed a professional/technical certificate or degree program in 2004-05 were employed nine months after leaving SVC, roughly equivalent to the system average (81%). The SVC leavers' 72% employment rate is up from 70% in 2003-04 but lower than the 75% system average.

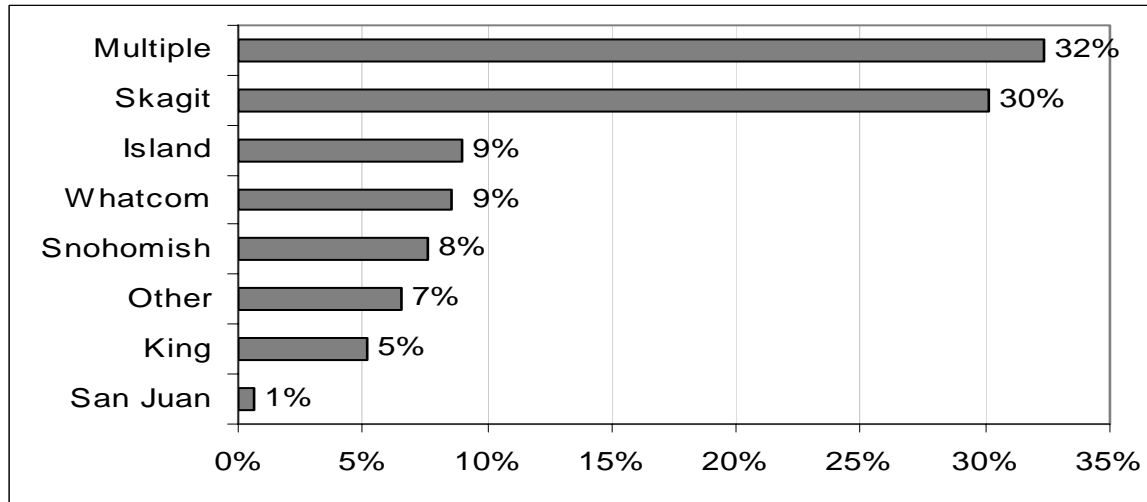
Figure 3.1: Employment Rates for SVC Job Prep Students Nine Months after Leaving College



**Employer Characteristics**

The available data on employer characteristics indicates that the majority of students leaving SVC are employed either in Skagit County (30%) or with a multiple-county employer (32%).

Figure 3.2: Employers by Location



## Hourly Wages

As shown in Figure 3.3, students who earn a degree have the highest average hourly wage of all leavers - \$18.07. The average hourly wage of students who complete a program and are working full time is \$16.16, up from \$15.62 in 2003-04 and \$13.36 in 2002-03. Figure 3.5 suggests that wages have increased substantially over 2003-04, especially for leavers working part-time who made 14% more. In comparison, both leavers working full-time and completers working part-time made 11% more, and completers working full-time made only 8% more.

Figure 3.3: Average Hourly Wages by Exit Type

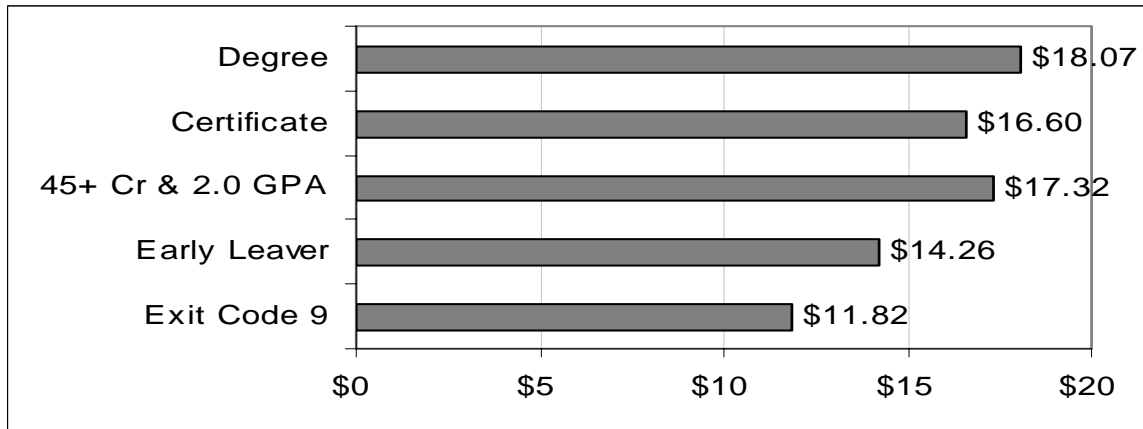


Figure 3.4: Hourly Wages for Leavers and Completers by Lower-, Medium- & Higher-Wage Programs

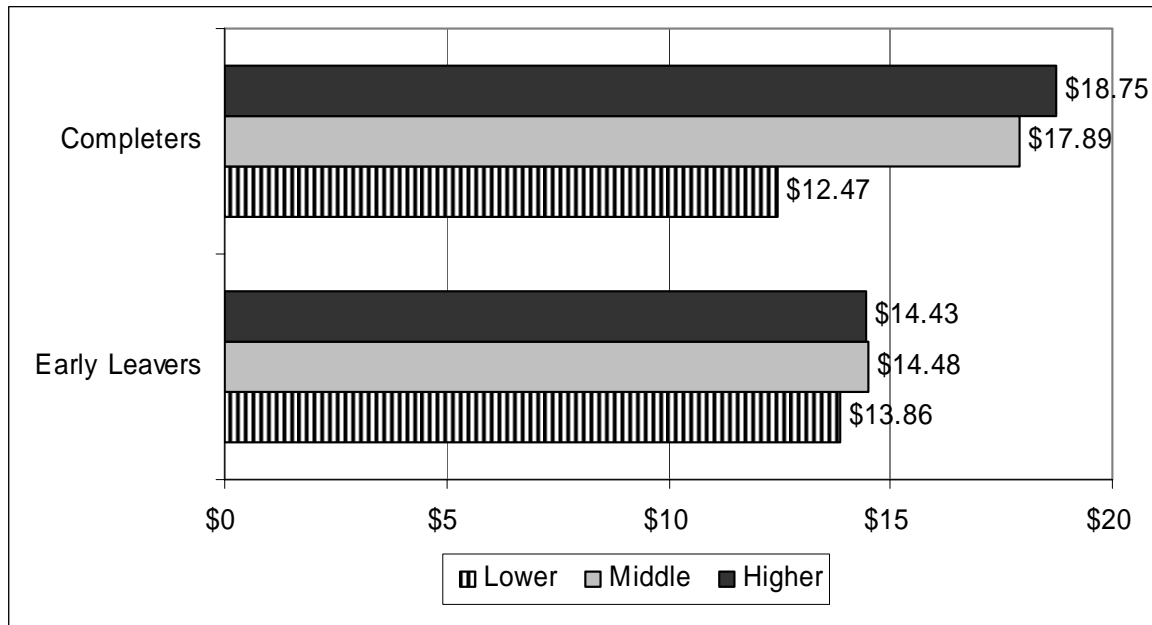
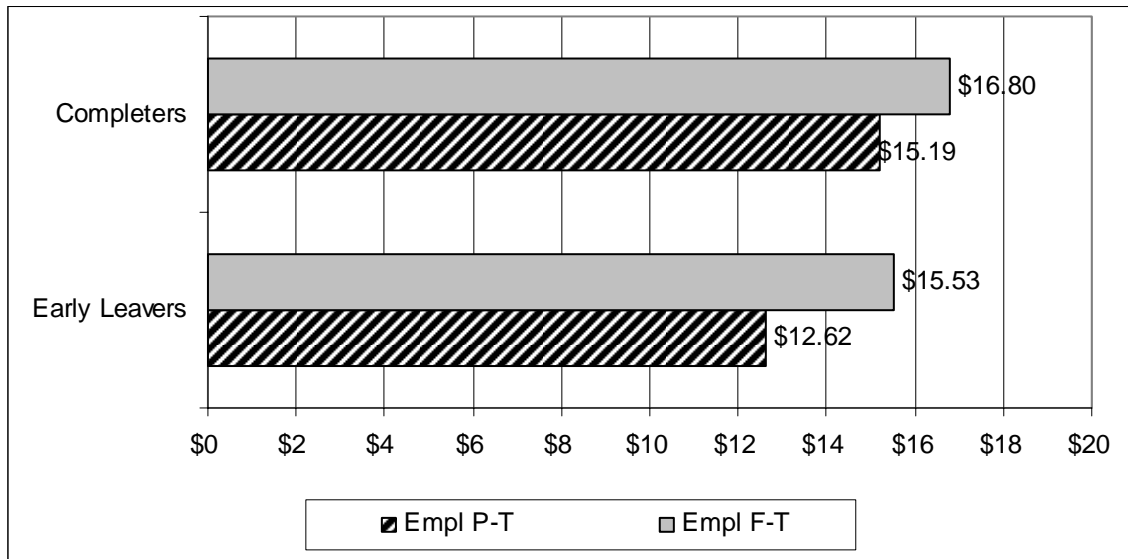


Figure 3.5: Hourly Wages by Exit Status and by Full-Time or Part-Time Employment



Note: “Completers” includes students who completed 45 credits or more with a 2.0 + GPA, or who were awarded a certificate of any kind or a degree. “Full-time” for the purposes of State Board reporting is defined as employed 30 or more hours per week.

### Section IV: Employer Perceptions

A survey regarding employer needs and satisfaction with their employees who attended SVC was distributed to employers at the annual Advisory Committee dinner held in November 2006. Fifty-five (55) completed surveys were returned. Following are highlights from the survey.

Table 4.1 Responses to Survey Question, “Based on your experience with SVC graduates, please rate the program with regard to the following general skills.”

	Superior	Good	Adequate	Poor	N/A
Interpersonal	10 25.0%	27 67.5%	3 7.5%		
Written Communication	5 12.5%	22 55.0%	13 32.5%		
Problem Solving/ Critical Thinking	6 15.0%	28 70.0%	6 15.0%		
Job-related Technical	10 25.0%	27 67.5%	1 2.5%	1 2.5%	1 2.5%
Understanding of Job/Employer Expectations	8 20.0%	23 57.5%	7 17.5%	1 2.5%	1 2.5%
Professional Attitude	12 30.0%	23 57.5%	3 7.5%	2 5.0%	

Every respondent (100%) strongly agreed with the statement: “Do SVC graduates have appropriate technical skills when hired?” In response to the questions, “What do you like about SVC graduates? What compels you to recruit from SVC?”, respondents reported that SVC graduates “seem to know what to expect in the work force” and they have “the basic skill and understanding to grow quickly.” Employers attributed SVC graduates with having the “desire” and “ability to learn,” being “energetic, inspired, and able” and “good training and instructors who really care about their work. Employers noted that “local connections” and “appreciation of place” were also important.

In response to a question regarding knowledge and skills that will be critical for employees in the future, respondents listed both skills that are specific to their industry, as well as many that transcend industry and are more basic to an individual’s ability to be productive as part of a team. Computer skills (general, as well as specific programs, especially MS Office), people skills (including interpersonal, supervisory, and customer service), and fundamentals (including critical thinking, math, common sense, and work ethic) were frequently listed.

Suggestions for SVC improvement included continued collaboration with community members and businesses, especially through placing students in internships/employment, and continued communication with advisors. Respondents also encouraged increased publicity of programs and courses, through marketing and by sending course/program information directly to appropriate employers.

**Board Plus/Delta**  
**“What is good about this report?**  
**What would you like to see changed?”**

**April 10, 2007**

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