

Student Evaluations of the REBOOT Program

In Spring 2009, Oakton offered REBOOT, a tuition free job training program available to residents of Oakton's district who had lost a full-time job after January 1, 2008. REBOOT offered five job-related certificates that could be completed within one semester: A+ Computer Diagnostic Specialist Certificate, CNC Operations and Programming Certificate, Green Marketing Certificate, Microsoft Project Management Certificate, and Pharmaceutical Preparations Certificate. Sixty-four students completed at least one course in the REBOOT program during the Spring semester.

In August 2009, the College conducted a telephone survey of the 64 REBOOT students; 31 (48%) participated in the survey.

Choosing REBOOT

Respondents reported several reasons for enrolling in the program. Among the most common responses were unemployment, seeking a new occupation or to gain new skills, and the low cost of the program. They learned about REBOOT through friends, advertisements on television, the unemployment office, and disability caseworkers.

Respondents overwhelmingly reported that they saw the REBOOT program as the opportunity to transition into a new occupation. For 90 percent of respondents, the primary objective for enrolling in the program was to prepare for a job in a different occupation or industry than where they had previously worked or to take courses to gain new skills. More than three-quarters of respondents (77%) told us they were successful in achieving their objective.

Evaluation of the Program

Respondents were asked to evaluate their experiences in REBOOT courses. Overall, respondents provided a very positive evaluation of their REBOOT courses. REBOOT has encouraged students to continue their job search efforts: 77 percent searched for a job while enrolled in REBOOT courses, and 74 percent searched for a job after completing the program.

Number of students who completed at least one course:

- 20 in the A+ Computer Diagnostic Specialist Program
- 9 in the CNC Operations and Programming Program
- 16 in the Green Marketing Program
- 11 in the Microsoft Project Management Program
- 8 in the Pharmaceutical Preparations Program

Student Satisfaction with REBOOT Courses
(Ratings of 6 & 7 on 7-point scale, where 7 = strongly agree)

