



PathTech LISTEN

Mixed Methods Longitudinal Investigations of Students in Technician Education

Research Brief Series

Volume 1, No. 2

Preliminary Results: Technical Programs Lead to STEM Careers

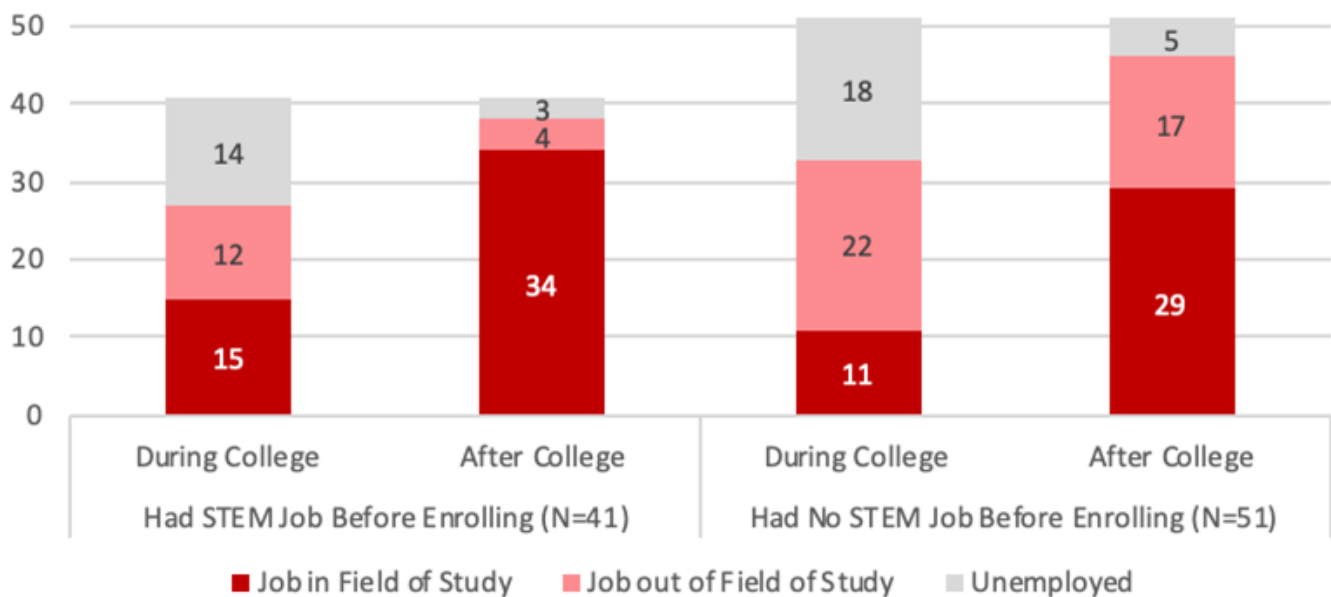
Will Tyson, Ph.D. & Lakshmi Jayaram, Ph.D.

PathTech LISTEN Wave 1 interviews were conducted between June 1, 2019 and September 30, 2019 with alumni of two-year technical programs, specifically in engineering technology, advanced manufacturing, micro- and nano-technology, and energy and environmental technology. Participants were recruited from the 3,216 students who completed PathTech LIFE survey. They include recent high school graduates, bachelor's degree recipients, and non-traditional age first time in college students. The majority did not have prior work experience in STEM. Most completed AS/AAS degrees, certificates and/or licenses. Some continued to bachelor's degree programs in STEM fields.

Overall, the findings indicate LISTEN participants successfully transitioned into the workforce and report their programs provided excellent preparation for their current jobs, regardless of their educational and occupational backgrounds.

Most of the interviewees (51) did not have a STEM job before enrolling. Of those, 11 got a job in their field during their program and a majority (29) got a job in their field after college. Among the 41 who had a STEM job before enrolling, 15 had a job in their field during college and almost all (34) got a job in their field after college. At the time of the first interview, of the 8 students who were unemployed after college, 6 were pursuing bachelor's degrees in a STEM field.

Employment Before, During, and After Enrollment



This study demonstrates that technician education programs are growing the technical workforce and that technician programs excel in helping individuals of various educational and employment backgrounds thrive in technical careers.