

# NCES DOVE UPDATE

DATA ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

VOL. 4, NO. 1 APRIL 2002

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE NCES TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (TRP) ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



## DOVE TRP MEETING

Wednesday/Thursday, May 29–30  
One Washington Circle Hotel, DC

By now, you should all have our next Technical Review Panel (TRP) meeting on your calendars. Agenda items will include updates from the work groups on the Common Core of Data (CCD) (improving the count of vocational schools), National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF) (drafting a module for 2-year faculty), and Education Longitudinal Survey (ELS) (designing the 12th-grade survey instruments). We will also discuss key findings from recent reports, including those that have contributed to the ongoing National Assessment of Vocational Education (NAVE). A detailed agenda will be sent to TRP members soon.



## LATEST NEWS

**From NAVE** The Interim Report to Congress on the National Assessment of Vocational Education is due to be released at the end of May. Earlier this month, the NAVE sponsored a research conference examining evidence of the effects of vocational education. Among the topics covered at the conference were “Short-Term Effects of Participating in Secondary Vocational Programs of Study,” “Effectiveness of Promising Practices in Secondary Vocational Education,” and the “Effects of Participating in Postsecondary Vocational Education.” Papers from the conference should be released around the same time as the NAVE’s final report, due out in December 2002. For more information about the NAVE, see their website: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/PES/NAVE/evalplan/>



## RECENT RELEASES

**Two publications** were released in February. *The Persistence of Employees who Pursue College Study* (NCES 2002–118) uses data from the base-year and first follow-up surveys of the 1995–96 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study to examine the persistence and completion rates of students who define themselves primarily as “employees who decided to enroll in school.”

Using data from the 1991, 1995, and 1999 Adult Education Surveys of the National Household Education Surveys (NHES) Program, *Participation Trends and Patterns in Adult Education: 1991 to 1999* (NCES 2002–119) examines the participation rates in adult education over time. Participation is examined among different groups of adults (by age, sex, race/ethnicity, education level, labor force status, occupation group, and whether the adult has continuing education requirements), and for different types of adult education, including work-related adult education.



## ONGOING ANALYSES

**Two main trend reports** on high school vocational/technical education are nearing the end of the NCES review process: *Trends in High School Vocational/Technical Course-taking: 1982–1998* and *Students Who Participate in High School Vocational/Technical Education: 1982–1998*. In addition, work is proceeding on examining trends from 1988–2000 in vocational teacher supply and demand, vocational teacher preparation, and the extent of implementation of relevant school reforms using several Schools and Staffing Surveys (SASS).

## VOCED FAST FACTS

Among all 1995–96 beginning postsecondary students, 20 percent of “employees who study” had earned a degree or certificate about three years after first enrolling, 14 percent of “students who work” had earned a degree or certificate by this time, and 19 percent of nonworking students had done so. However, 54 percent of “employees who study” had left school without a credential after three years, compared to about 27 percent of their peers.

SOURCE: *Stats in Brief: The Persistence of Employees Who Pursue Postsecondary Study (NCES 2002–118)*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.



## NEW ANALYSES

**Preliminary work** has begun on two Issue Briefs and one longer report. Using the NHES 2001 Adult Education Survey, one Issue Brief will examine the extent to which technology appears to be increasing access to education opportunities for adults. Another covers trends in participation in postsecondary vocational education over the last decade. It will use multiple years of the National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey (NPSAS).

A longer report will use the 1995–96 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study to compare vocational students who had completed a postsecondary program by 2001 and those who had not, including comparing their education and labor market outcomes.