College Wage Tracker Methodology:

The College Wage Tracker datamart module queries median wages of students who completed credit awards at a particular California Community College over a series of academic years using California Employment Development (EDD) Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data .

Total annual median wages for students three years after completion of award are displayed and categorized by College and type of award. The type of awards are defined by the [Taxonomy of Program (TOP)](#) code and the level of the award, including , 'Associate Degrees', 'Chancellor's Office approved Certificates' and 'Locally Approved Certificates'.

Cohorts of Students:

The cohorts of students are those who received an award anytime over 8 consecutive academic years. The students could not have transferred to a four year institution, could not be enrolled anywhere in the California Community College system after receiving an award and were older than 21 at time of award.

Wage Calculations:

The wages for each student in the eight cohorts are captured three years after receiving the award. The wages are adjusted to for inflation to constant dollars using the California CPI-U.

After combining the eight award cohorts into a single group, the median wage was calculated for the combined cohort group by TOP code, award category and college. The median wages calculated do not represent any one year but instead are the combined median wages for multiple award cohorts.

Students from cohort groups were excluded from wage calculations if they had no wages during the calculation year. For example if a student was reported in the EDDUI file as having no wages three years after earning an award they would be excluded from the calculation of the median.

Award categories with less than 10 students having wages were also excluded to ensure confidentiality.

A student is counted if they show up as having earned wages at any quarter during the year. For instance if a student earned wages in quarters 1 and 3 in a given academic year, these wages would be summed and this total would be the student's wages for that academic year.

Awards with no graduates in the last two years of the combined 8 year group of graduates were excluded.

Data Fields:

- **Median Wage 3 Years After**: is the median wage 3 years after receiving the award for a given TOP code and award category.
- **Total Award**: The number of awards in the award type/TOP code combination after exclusions are applied (no enrollment in system after award, no transfer to 4 year college and over age 21 at award time).
- **Award to Wage Match Rate**: Percent students in Total Awards column that were matched with wages 3 years after award.

Note that not all students earning wages will be found in the EDDUI wage data. EDD UI data only contains wages for those who were employed in an occupation covered by Unemployment Insurance in California. This excludes individuals who were employed by the military or federal government, self-employed, employed out of state, unemployed, or not in the workforce after completion of an award. The EDDUI data also does not indicate how many hours an individual worked or part time/full time status. Since we are matching to EDDUI wage files students are also required to have an SSN. Wages are adjusted for inflation to constant dollars using the California CPI-U.