System Wage Tracker Methodology:

The System Wage Tracker datamart module uses California Employment Development (EDD) Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data with the Chancellor's Office MIS data on all systemwide annual award completers who earned credit certificates or degrees in a given academic year.

Total annual median wages for each student from two years before completion as well as two and five years after completion of award are displayed. Median wage gain was broken out [by Taxonomy of Program (TOP)](#) code and calculated for three categories of award types, 'Associate Degrees', 'Chancellor's Office approved Certificates' and 'Locally Approved Certificates'.

Cohort Group:

The Wage Outcomes cohort is the set of students who received an awards over a period of five consecutive academic years who had not transferred to a four year institution, were not enrolled anywhere in the California Community College system after receiving an award and were older than 21 at time of award.

Wage Calculations:

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 two years after earning an award they would be excluded from the calculation of the median for wages two years after completion of award.

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.

Data Fields:

- **Median Wage 2 Years Before**: is the median wage 2 years before receiving the award for a given TOP code and award category.
- **Median Wage 2 Years After**: is the median wage 2 years after receiving the award for a given TOP code and award category.
- **Median Wage 5 Years After**: is the median wage 5 years after receiving the award for a given TOP code and award category.

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.