



# Results of the Spring 2016 High School Senior Survey—*What's Next*

## Research Brief

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

### Research Purpose / Methodology

Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) has seen a dramatic decrease in the number of in-district high school seniors attending the college the summer or fall after they graduate. The What's Next survey was developed in an effort to determine what seniors are doing after high school graduation. This is the second year the college has completed the survey.

MHCC's AIR Team contacted all in-district high school principals with the survey proposal. Three high schools that did the survey the previous year, agreed to participate again. One additional high school also participated.

The survey was administered on-line during the high school senior exit process. A unique URL was provided to each participating school; the URL tagged respondents to their high school. The unique URL also allowed each high school to ask specific questions of their seniors. Participating high schools and responses are presented in the table below.

**Table 1: Participating High Schools and Responses**

High School	# Respondents	% of Sample
Centennial	288	38.04%
Gresham	272	35.93%
Sam Barlow	163	21.53%
Springwater Trail	34	4.49%
Total	757	100.00%

### Conclusions/Recommendations

#### Point of Interest:

*Three quarters of high school seniors (75%) indicated they would be continuing their education.*

#### For Seniors Not Continuing Education

Reasons for Not Continuing:

- ✓ Costs
- ✓ Feel Unprepared
- ✓ Grades aren't good enough

To Increase Likelihood of Continuing  
Provide information on:

- ✓ Financial Aid/Scholarship .
- ✓ Flexible Schedules
- ✓ Job Placement Services
- ✓ Lifetime Salary Comparisons

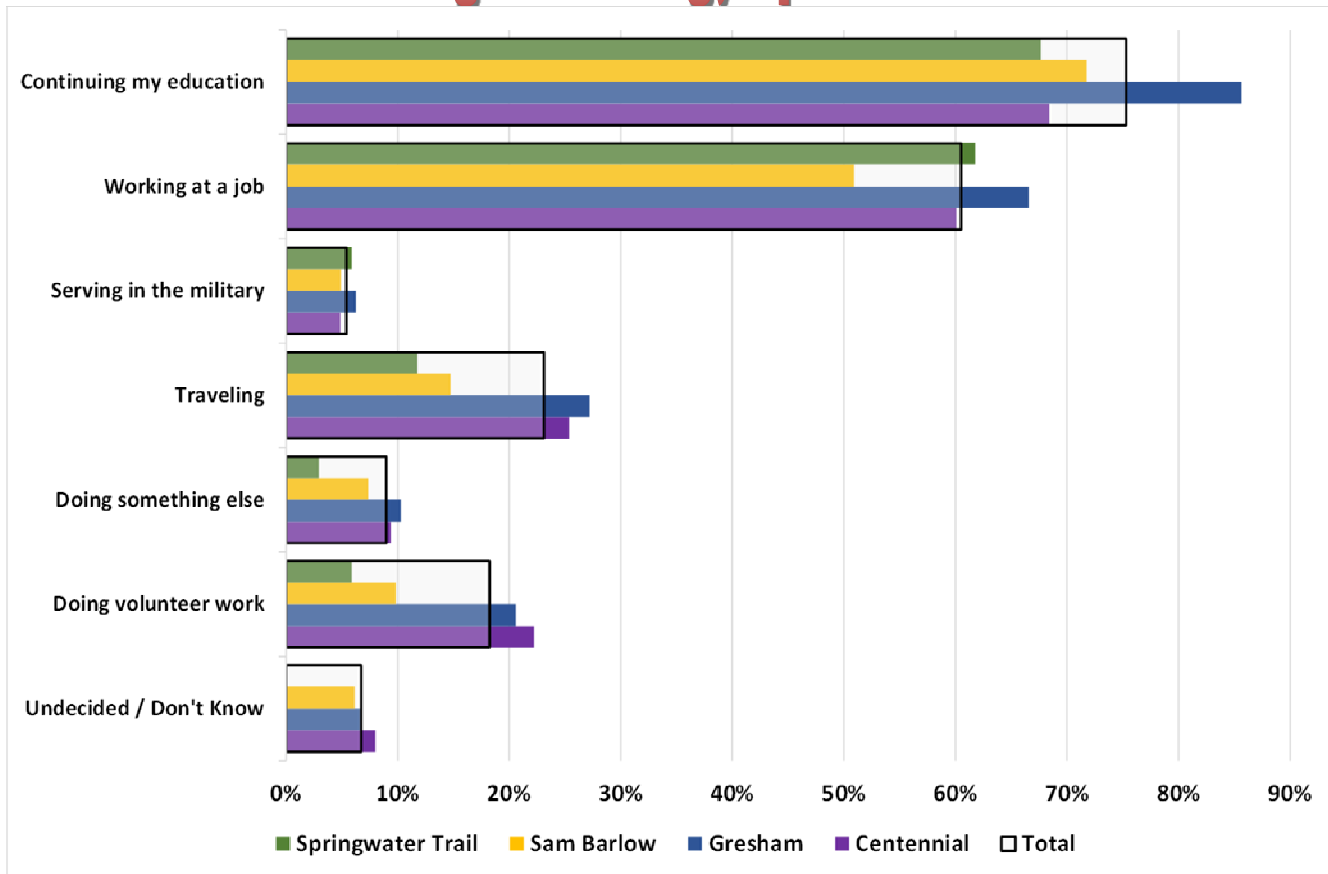
#### For Seniors Continuing Education

- ✓ 58% are attending a Community College
- ✓ Reasons for selecting:
  - Programs available
  - Financial Aid Information
  - Overall Costs
- ✓ 41% received at least one scholarship; Median value of scholarships: \$2,500.
- ✓ MHCC District seniors attending a Portland Metropolitan College:
  - MHCC: 75%
  - PCC: 20%
  - CCC: 5%

#### MHCC should:

- ✓ Establish itself as the community college of service to MHCC District High School Seniors.
- ✓ Capitalize on the information content desired by seniors and programs available to make itself the college of choice.

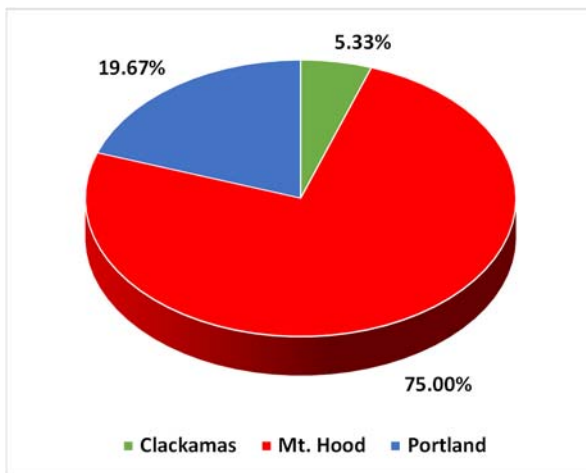
# Four months after graduating, I plan to be...



- 75.30% Continuing Education
- 60.50% Working
- 5.42% Military Service
- 23.12% Traveling
- 8.98% Doing something else
- 18.23% Volunteer Work
- 6.74% Undecided

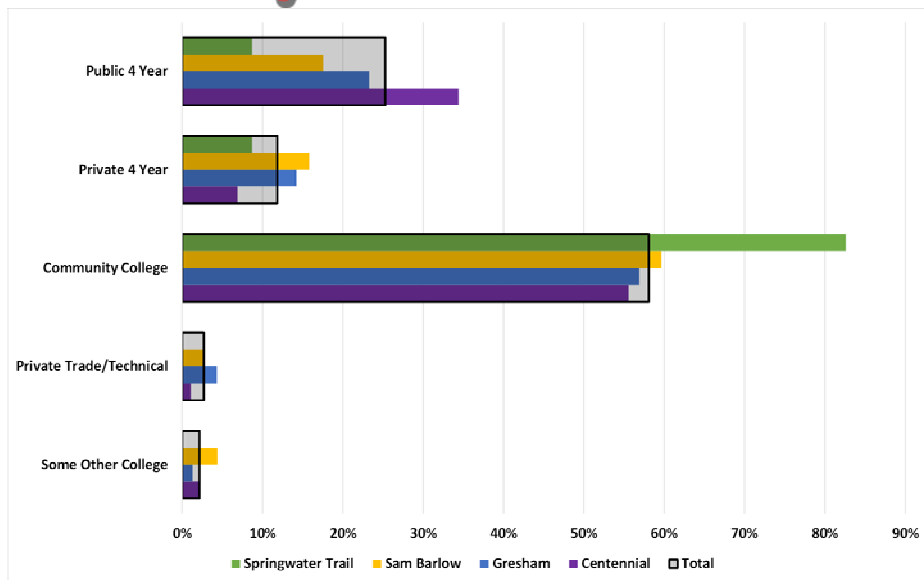
Seniors were asked what they would be doing four months after graduating high school; they could check all the responses that applied to them. Percentages reported to the left are based on the total number of respondents not the number of responses to the question. Three quarters indicated they would be continuing their education. Over half indicated they would be working. Just under a quarter said they would be Traveling. About a fifth said they would be doing volunteer work. Under ten percent indicated they would be joining the military, doing something else, or were undecided.

## Seniors Bound for Portland Metropolitan Area Community Colleges



Of the seniors that indicated they would be attending a Portland Metropolitan Area Community College (92.08% of community college bound seniors surveyed), the majority (75.00%) indicated they would attend MHCC. The figure to the left shows the proportions that will be attending each of the three colleges. A quarter of these seniors (25.00%) will be attending a college other than MHCC; 19.67% will be attending Portland Community College and 5.33% will attend Clackamas Community College. This should be of concern as everyone residing within the district of the high school they attend lives within the MHCC District Boundary.

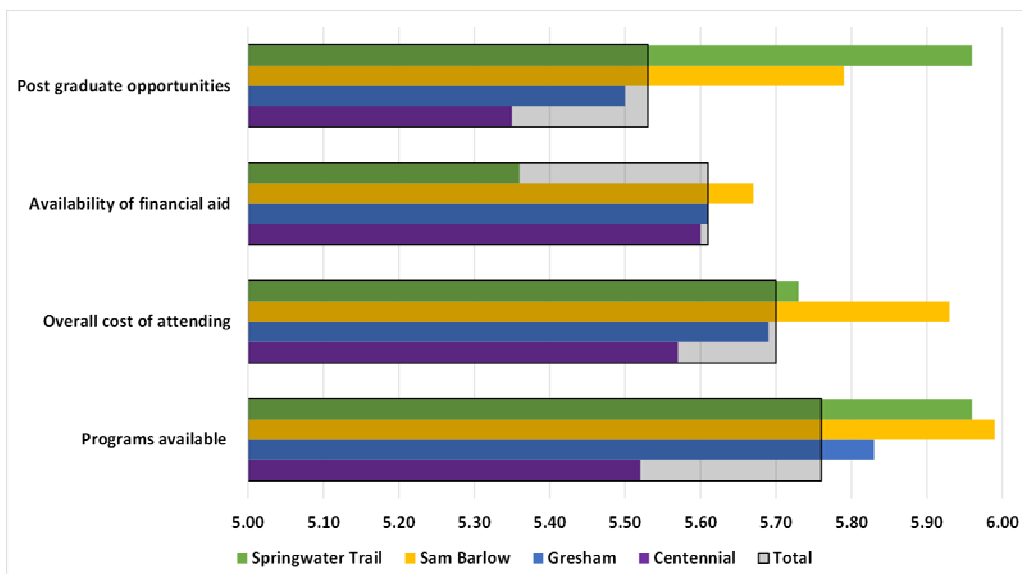
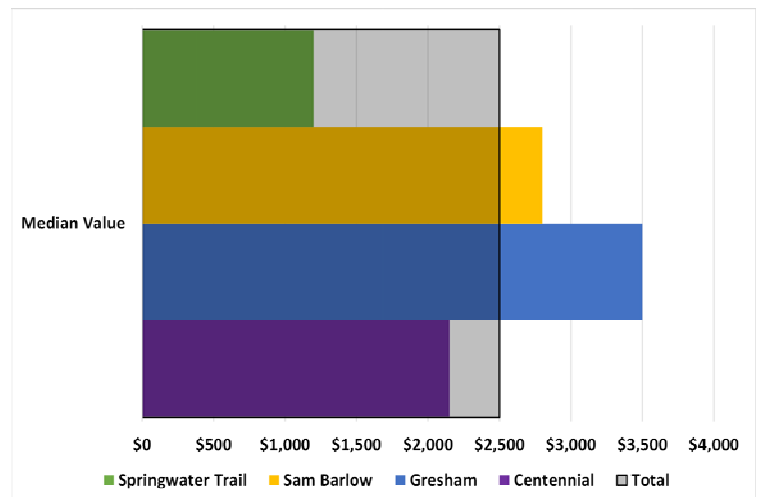
# Continuing Their Education



Of the 75% of seniors (558 respondents) continuing their education:

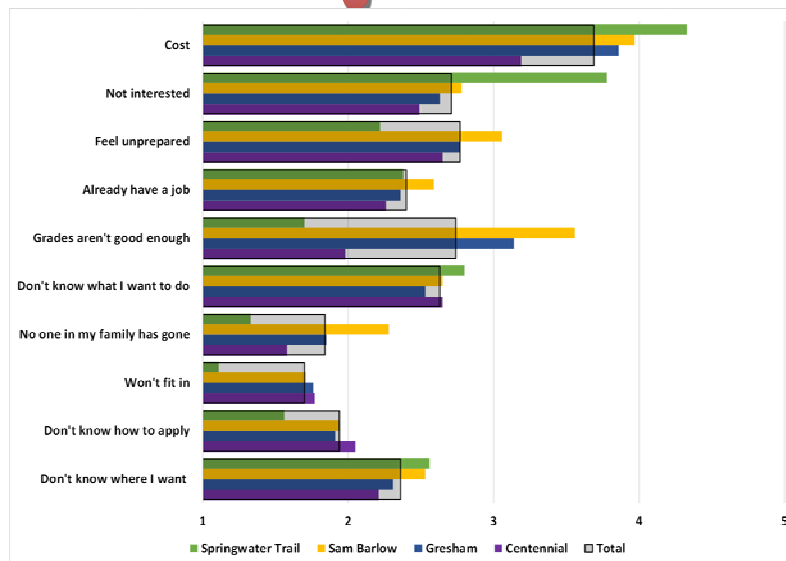
- 25.27% attending Public 4-year Institution.
- 11.83% attending a Private 4-year Institution
- 58.06% attending a Community College
- 2.69% attending a Private Trade / Technical Institution
- 2.15% attending Some Other College

40.50% of Continuing Education Seniors, were awarded at least one scholarship. The average value of awards was \$8,200 (5% trimmed mean value). The high standard deviation (\$24,023) indicates some very high awards. The median value was \$2,500. The average number of awards received was 1.82.



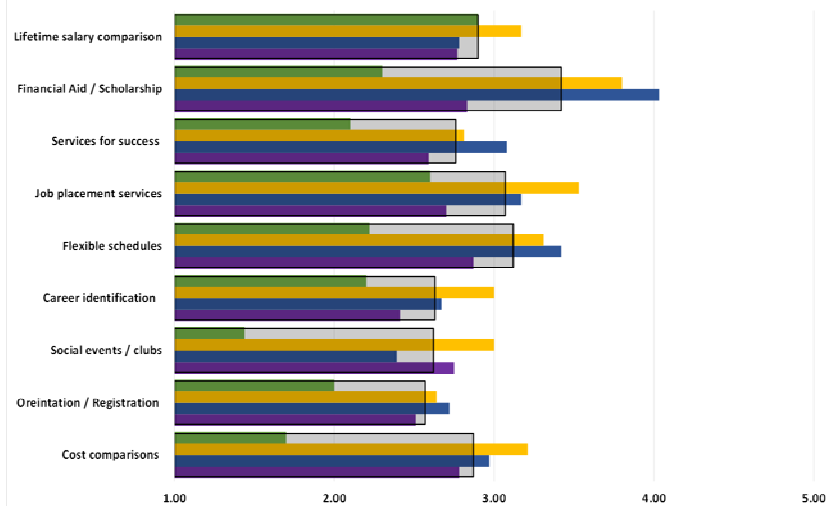
The figure to the left plots mean scores of the four reasons for selecting the institution chosen that were rated highest by seniors continuing their education. The two highest rated reasons for selecting are *Programs available of interest to me* (Mean = 5.76, s.d. 1.38) and *Overall cost of attending* (Mean = 5.70, s.d. 1.54).

# Not Continuing Their Education



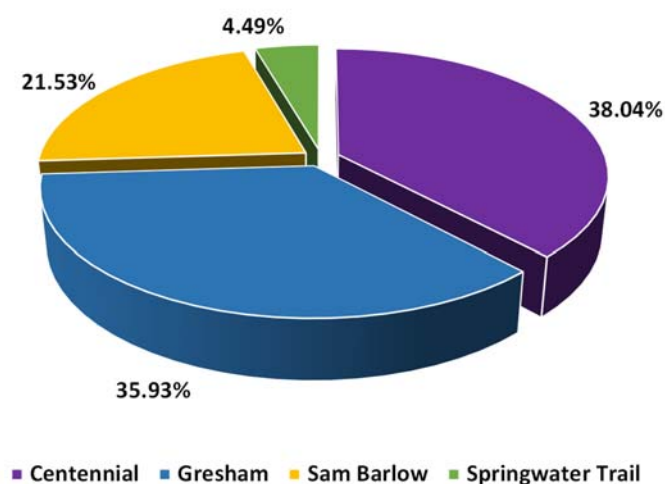
Seniors not continuing their education were asked to rate ten reasons on a 7-point scale (1=Not a reason at all to 7= An Extreme Reason). Mean scores for each reason are plotted in the figure to the left. Seniors overwhelmingly cited Cost as the biggest reason for not continuing their education (Mean = 3.69, s.d. 2.17). Costs had a 0.92 higher score than the next highest reason for not continuing: *Feel Unprepared* (Mean = 2.77, s.d. 1.95).

Information sources that would increase the likelihood of seniors continuing their education were presented and respondents were asked to rate each on a 7-point scale (1=Not Change to 7= Dramatic Increase). Mean scores for each of the nine sources is presented in the figure to the right. *Financial Aid/Scholarship information* (Mean = 3.42, s.d. 2.11) is most likely to influence the likelihood of seniors continuing. *Flexible Schedules* (Mean = 3.12, s.d. 1.85) and *Job Placement Services* (Mean = 3.07, s.d. 1.91) were the second and third highest rated information types.



# Who Responded

Roughly equal proportions for the Gresham and Centennial High School Seniors. A slightly lower proportion of respondents from Sam Barlow High School due to logistical/communication issues. Springwater Trail is a substantially smaller high school; the proportion from Springwater Trail was expected to be smaller. Information regarding the number of seniors actually graduating from each school is not available.



This Research Brief and the Full Report are available on the MHCC Web Site at: <https://webapps.mhcc.edu/AIRWeb/Default?l=3>

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