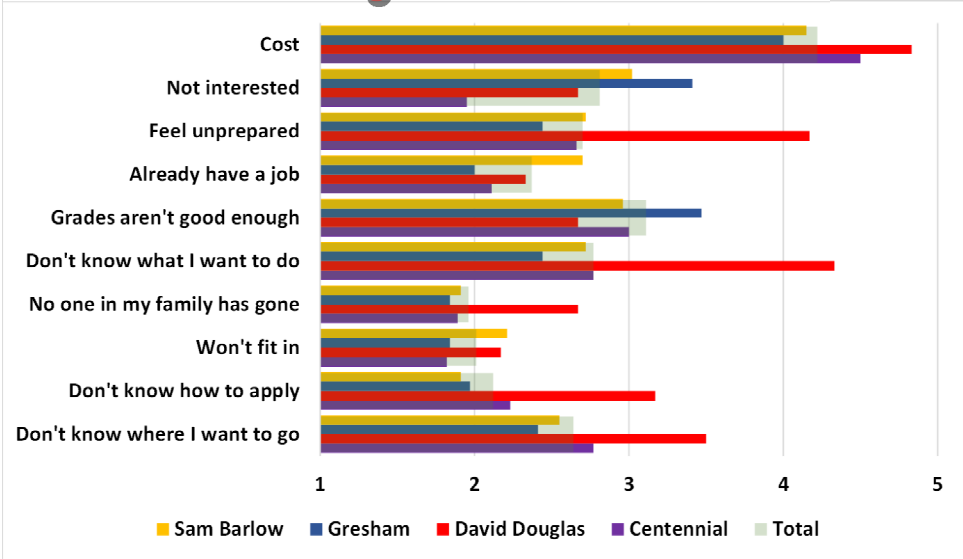
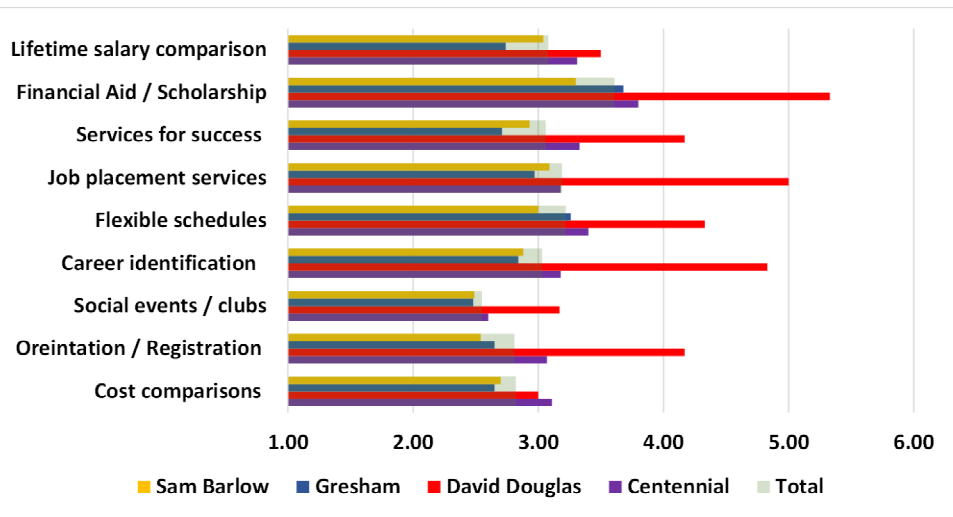


# Not Continuing Their Education



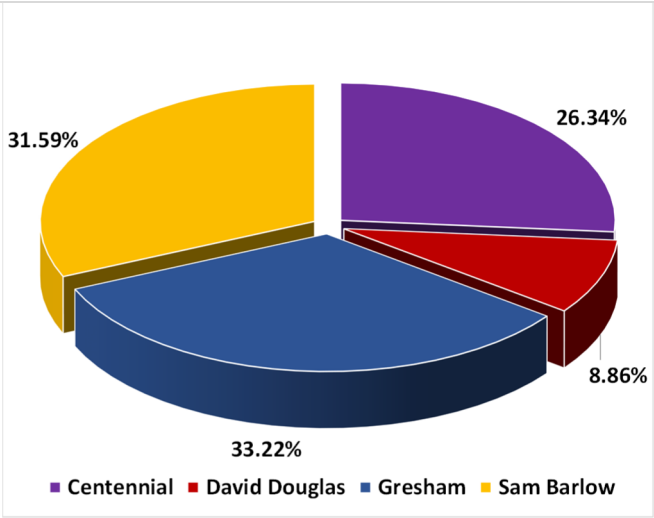
Seniors not continuing their education were asked to rate ten reasons on a 7-point scale (1=Not a reason at all to 7= An Extreme Reason). Mean scores for each reason are plotted in the figure to the left. Seniors overwhelmingly cited Cost as the biggest reason for not continuing their education (Mean = 4.22, s.d. 2.22). Costs had a 1.11 higher score than the next highest reason for not continuing: *Grades aren't good enough* (Mean = 3.11, s.d. 2.13).

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 = 3.61, s.d. 2.08) is most likely to influence the likelihood of seniors continuing. *Flexible Schedules* (Mean = 3.22, s.d. 1.93) was the second highest rated information type.



# Who Responded

For the three high schools that conducted the survey as part of the exit interview process, the distribution of responses was relatively the same. Centennial, Gresham and Sam Barlow High Schools each had about thirty percent of the respondents (26.34%, 33.22%, and 31.59% respectively). David Douglas High School—which provided the URL and asked seniors to complete it voluntarily—had a much lower level of responses (8.86% of the sample). David Douglas responses should be treated with caution.



This Research Brief and the Full Report are available on the MHCC Web Site at:

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# Results of the Spring 2015 High School Senior Survey

Monday, August 31, 2015

## Research Brief

### 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.

A survey proposal was developed and presented by the MHCC President to in-district high school superintendents. With their support and approval, the Analytics & Institutional Research team worked with district high school principals to develop and administer the survey. Of the twelve in-district high schools, six principals

indicated a willingness to participate.

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. All schools collected data during the exit process except for David Douglas High School which made the survey voluntary. Two of the six schools did not administer the survey to 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	% Analyzed
Centennial	226	26.16%	26.34%
David Douglas	76	8.80%	8.86%
Gresham	285	32.99%	33.22%
Sam Barlow	271	31.37%	31.59%
Springwater Trail	1	0.12%	
Parkrose	5	0.58%	
Total	864	100.00%	
Total Analyzed	858	99.31%	100.00%

### Conclusions/Recommendations

#### Point of Interest:

Almost a quarter of high school seniors (74%) indicated they would be continuing their education.

#### For Seniors Not Continuing Education

Reasons for Not Continuing:

- ✓ Costs
- ✓ Grades aren't good enough
- To Increase Likelihood of Continuing:
  - ✓ Financial Aid/Scholarship Info.
  - ✓ Flexible Schedules
  - ✓ Services for Success
  - ✓ Job Placement Services

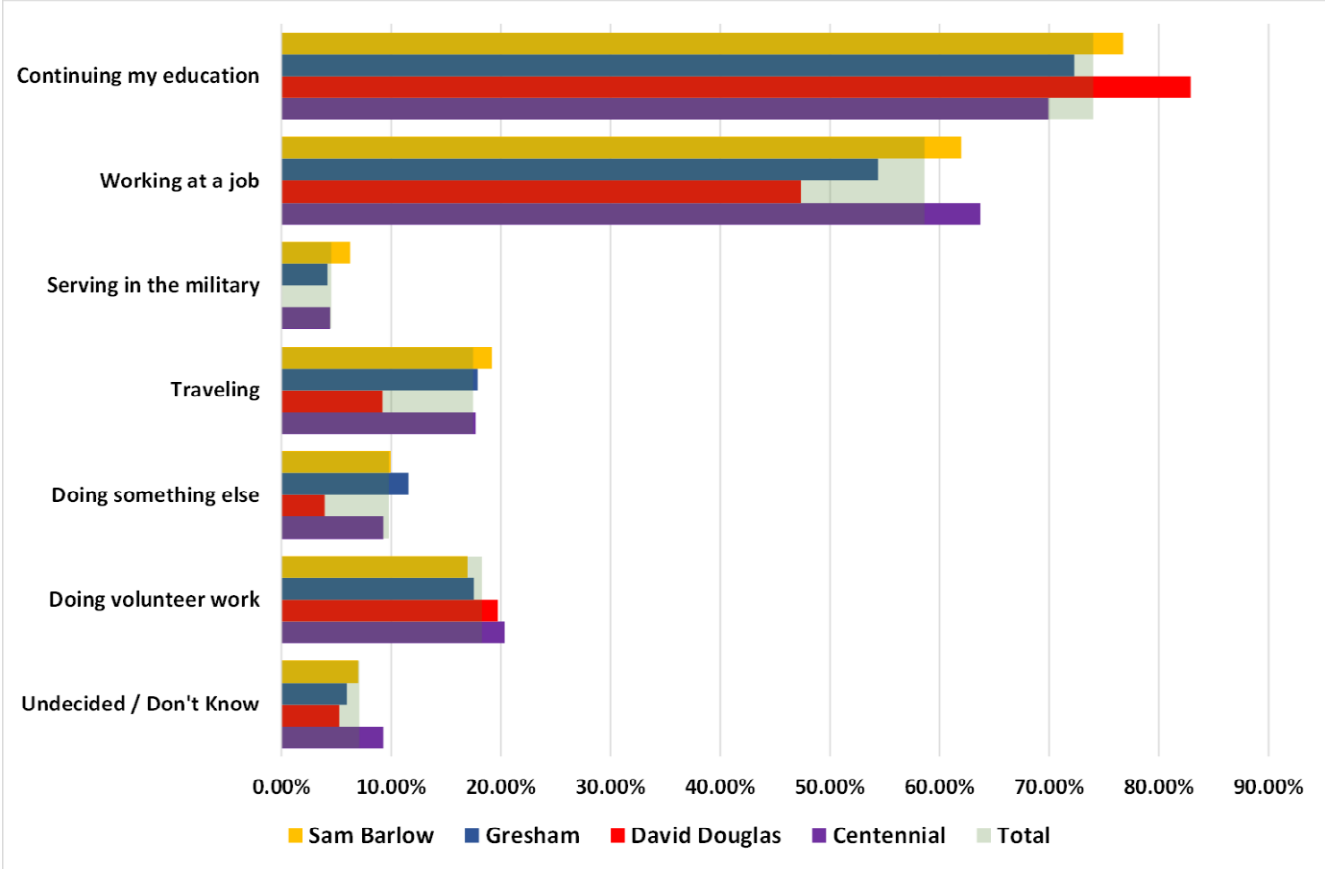
#### MHCC should:

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

#### For Seniors Continuing Education

- ✓ 54% are attending a Community College
- ✓ Reasons for selecting:
  - Programs available
  - Overall Costs
- ✓ 32% received at least one scholarship; Median value of scholarships: \$2,500.
- ✓ MHCC District seniors attending a Portland Metropolitan College:
  - MHCC: 72%
  - PCC: 17%
  - CCC: 11%

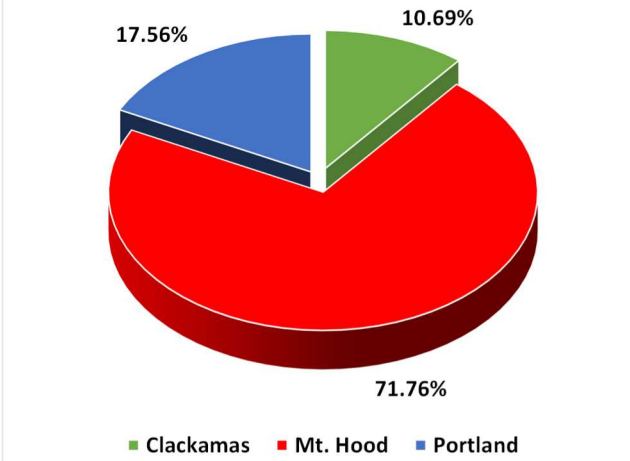
# Four months after graduating, I plan to be...



- 74.01% Continuing Education
- 58.63% Working
- 4.55% Military Service
- 17.48% Traveling
- 9.79% Doing something else
- 18.30% Volunteer Work
- 7.11% Undecided

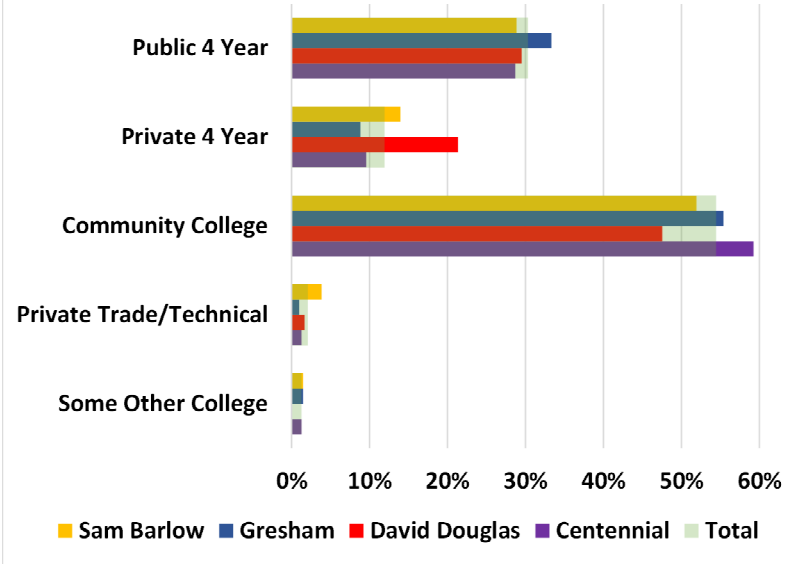
Seniors were asked what they would be doing four months after graduating high school; they could check all the responses that applied to them. Percentages reported to the left are based on the total number of respondents not the number of responses to the question. Almost three quarters indicated they would be continuing their education. Over half indicated they would be working. Just under a fifth said they would be Traveling and/or doing volunteer work. Under ten percent indicated they would be 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 (80.86% of community college bound seniors surveyed), the majority (71.76%) indicated they would attend MHCC. The figure to the left shows the proportions that will be attending each of the three colleges. Over a quarter of these seniors (28.25%) will be attending a college other than MHCC; 17.56% will be attending Portland Community College and 10.69% 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.

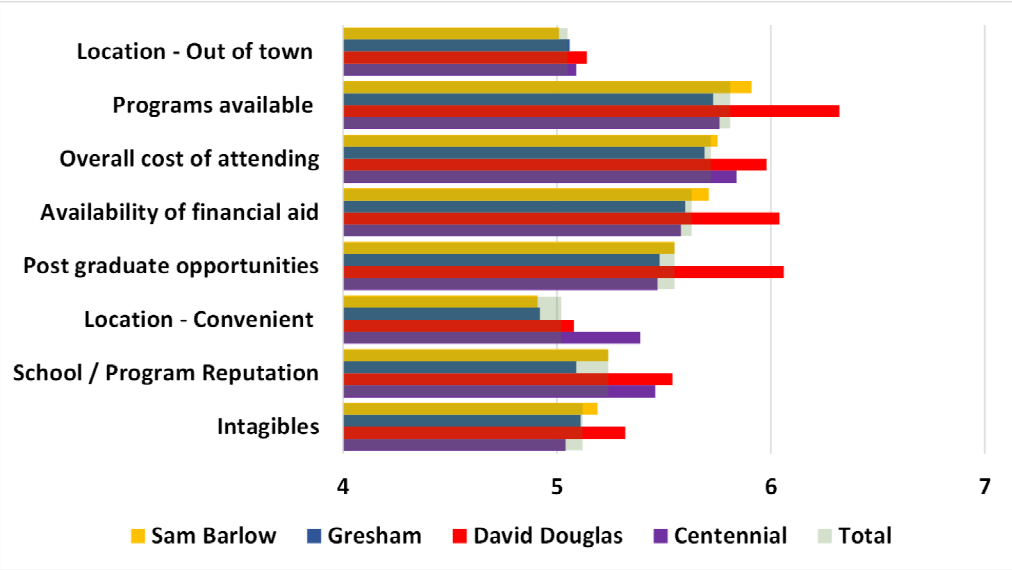
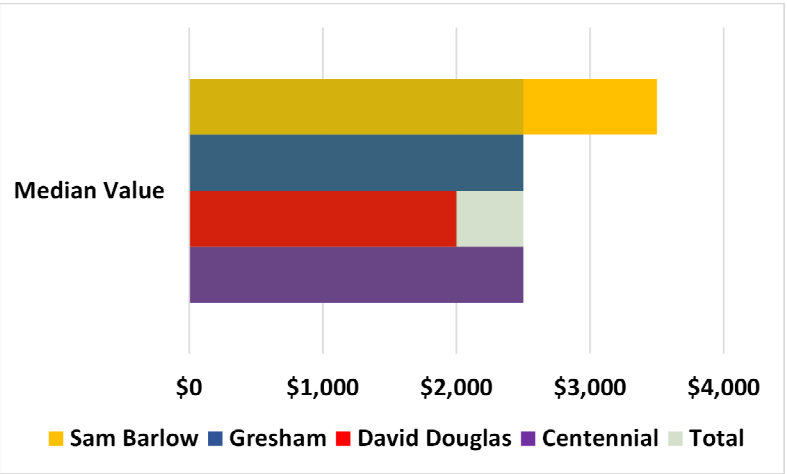
# Continuing Their Education



Of the 74% of seniors (630 respondents) continuing their education:

- 30.32% attending Public 4-year Institution.
- 11.90% attending a Private 4-year Institution
- 54.44% attending a Community College
- 2.06% attending a Private Trade / Technical Institution
- 1.27% attending Some Other College

32.01% of Continuing Education Seniors, were awarded at least one scholarship. The average value of awards was \$8,156 (5% trimmed mean value). The high standard deviation (\$31,647) indicates some very high awards. The median value was \$2,500. The average number of awards received was 1.74.



The figure to the left plots mean scores of the eight 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 = 5.81, s.d. 1.33) and *Overall cost of attending* (Mean = 5.72, s.d. 1.45).