HESIG statewide 2014 poll – weighted frequencies
Stockton Polling Institute
May 13-23, May 27-June 1, 2014
801 completed interviews

Q1. In the following questions, when we refer to colleges, we mean any public or private college or university located in the state of New Jersey. How would you rate the quality of education provided at colleges in New Jersey?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Excellent	221	26.9	26.9	26.9
	Good	416	50.5	50.5	77.4
	Fair	64	7.8	7.8	85.2
	Or poor	10	1.2	1.2	86.4
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	112	13.6	13.6	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q2. Which one of the following types of colleges do you think provides the highest-quality educational experience:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A four-year college	711	86.4	86.4	86.4
	A two-year college	57	6.9	6.9	93.3
	Or an online college?	7	.8	.8	94.1
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	47	5.8	5.8	99.9
	REFUSE	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q3. Which one of the following types of colleges do you think provides the greatest value for the money paid in tuition, fees and other expenses:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A four-year college	336	40.9	40.9	40.9
	A two-year county college	350	42.5	42.5	83.4
	Or an online college?	67	8.2	8.2	91.6
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	68	8.2	8.2	99.8
	REFUSE	2	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q4. Overall, how affordable are New Jersey's colleges, including tuition, fees, books and other expenses?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very affordable	19	2.3	2.3	2.3
	Affordable	377	45.8	45.8	48.0
	Unaffordable	249	30.2	30.2	78.3
	Or very unaffordable	79	9.6	9.6	87.9
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	100	12.1	12.1	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q5. What is the most important way that New Jersey colleges help you and your family:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Improve your lives	146	17.7	17.7	17.7
	Help find or keep a job	178	21.6	21.6	39.4
	Career development	186	22.6	22.6	62.0
	Keep people in New Jersey	62	7.5	7.5	69.5
	Some other way (SPECIFY)	26	3.2	3.2	72.7
	Or do they not help your family?	175	21.3	21.3	94.0
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	49	6.0	6.0	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q6. Which one of the following do you think is the most important skill or ability that colleges help students develop:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A strong work ethic	154	18.7	18.7	18.7
	Leadership	116	14.1	14.1	32.7
	Writing and speaking skills	177	21.5	21.5	54.3
	Technology skills	150	18.3	18.3	72.6
	Teamwork	69	8.4	8.4	81.0
	Or citizenship and community service?	53	6.4	6.4	87.4
	SOME OTHER SKILL (SPECIFY)	38	4.6	4.6	92.0
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	66	8.0	8.0	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q7. For the long-term, which one of the following do you think is the most important outcome of going to college:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Getting a better job	255	31.0	31.0	31.0
	Improving quality of life	223	27.1	27.1	58.1
	Learning specific skills	75	9.1	9.1	67.2
	Gaining a broader understanding of the world	183	22.2	22.2	89.5
	Or becoming a better citizen?	54	6.5	6.5	96.0
	SOME OTHER OUTCOME	6	.7	.7	96.7
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	28	3.3	3.3	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q8. What was the main reason that you attended college:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Get a better job	251	30.5	37.0	37.0
	Improve quality of life	134	16.3	19.8	56.8
	Learn specific skills	174	21.2	25.6	82.4
	Gain a broader understanding of the world	65	7.9	9.6	92.0
	Or to become a better citizen?	9	1.1	1.4	93.4
	SOME OTHER REASON	26	3.1	3.8	97.2
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	19	2.3	2.8	100.0
	Total	678	82.5	100.0	
Missing	System	144	17.5		
Total		822	100.0		

Q9. Which one of the following was your main reason for choosing the college you attended:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Price	136	16.6	20.1	20.1
	Program offerings	164	19.9	24.2	44.2
	Quality	98	11.9	14.4	58.7
	Location	170	20.7	25.1	83.7
	Job or career enhancement	45	5.5	6.6	90.3
	Or some other reason? (SPECIFY)	56	6.7	8.2	98.5
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	10	1.2	1.5	100.0
	Total	678	82.5	100.0	
Missing	System	144	17.5		
Total		822	100.0		

Q10. Overall would you say the value of your college education was worth the cost, or was it not worth the cost?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	WORTH THE COST	612	74.4	90.2	90.2
	NOT WORTH THE COST	60	7.3	8.9	99.0
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	7	.8	1.0	100.0
	Total	678	82.5	100.0	
Missing	System	144	17.5		
Total		822	100.0		

Q11. Looking back, which one of the following changes would you make as a student to add greater value to your college experience:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Make better choices about course selections	124	15.1	18.3	18.3
	Find more internships or work experiences	197	24.0	29.1	47.4
	Choose a different major	95	11.6	14.1	61.5
	Or study harder ?	153	18.6	22.6	84.1
	WOULD NOT MAKE ANY CHANGE	75	9.1	11.0	95.1
	SOME OTHER REASON (SPECIFY)	20	2.4	3.0	98.0
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	13	1.6	2.0	100.0
	Total	678	82.5	100.0	
Missing	System	144	17.5		
Total		822	100.0		

Q12. Looking back, which one of the following changes could your college make to add greater value to your college experience:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	More hands-on practical experience, such as internships	227	27.6	33.4	33.4
	Better academic counseling about programs and courses	112	13.6	16.5	49.9
	Better counseling on jobs and careers	129	15.7	19.0	68.9
	More courses in the major and less in general education	72	8.8	10.7	79.6
	More online courses	20	2.5	3.0	82.6
	Or more transfer credit for courses taken at other institutions?	64	7.8	9.5	92.1
	SOME OTHER CHANGE (SPECIFY)	7	.9	1.1	93.1
	NO CHANGE	27	3.3	4.0	97.1
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	20	2.4	2.9	100.0
	Total	678	82.5	100.0	
Missing	System	144	17.5		
Total		822	100.0		

Q13. Thinking generally now about the value of college, how important or unimportant is it to learn each of the following skills and abilities in college? Understanding and gathering information

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very important	617	75.0	75.0	75.0
	Somewhat important	190	23.1	23.1	98.1
	Somewhat unimportant	13	1.5	1.5	99.7
	Very unimportant	2	.2	.2	99.9
	NOT SURE/DK	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q14. How important or unimportant is it to learn each of the following skills and abilities in college? Communicating orally

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very important	656	79.7	79.7	79.7
	Somewhat important	155	18.9	18.9	98.6
	Somewhat unimportant	7	.8	.8	99.5
	Very unimportant	4	.4	.4	99.9
	NOT SURE/DK	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q15. How important or unimportant is it to learn each of the following skills and abilities in college? Writing clearly

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very important	662	80.5	80.5	80.5
	Somewhat important	149	18.1	18.1	98.6
	Somewhat unimportant	6	.8	.8	99.3
	Very unimportant	4	.5	.5	99.8
	NOT SURE/DK	2	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q16. How important or unimportant is it to learn each of the following skills and abilities in college? Problem solving

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very important	675	82.1	82.1	82.1
	Somewhat important	137	16.7	16.7	98.8
	Somewhat unimportant	5	.6	.6	99.4
	Very unimportant	4	.5	.5	99.9
	NOT SURE/DK	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q17. How important or unimportant is it to learn each of the following skills and abilities in college? Leadership

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very important	436	53.0	53.0	53.0
	Somewhat important	355	43.2	43.2	96.2
	Somewhat unimportant	24	3.0	3.0	99.2
	Very unimportant	5	.6	.6	99.7
	NOT SURE/DK	2	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q18. How important or unimportant is it to learn each of the following skills and abilities in college? Teamwork

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very important	552	67.1	67.1	67.1
	Somewhat important	248	30.1	30.1	97.2
	Somewhat unimportant	16	1.9	1.9	99.1
	Very unimportant	4	.5	.5	99.6
	NOT SURE/DK	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q19. How important or unimportant is it to learn each of the following skills and abilities in college? Working with numbers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very important	344	41.8	41.8	41.8
	Somewhat important	419	51.0	51.0	92.8
	Somewhat unimportant	42	5.2	5.2	97.9
	Very unimportant	10	1.2	1.2	99.1
	NOT SURE/DK	7	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q20. How important or unimportant is it to learn each of the following skills and abilities in college? Using technology

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very important	642	78.0	78.0	78.0
	Somewhat important	156	19.0	19.0	97.0
	Somewhat unimportant	14	1.6	1.6	98.7
	Very unimportant	3	.4	.4	99.1
	NOT SURE/DK	8	.9	.9	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q21. I'm going to read a list of options for reducing the time it takes to get a college degree. Please select the one that you think is the most important.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	More information about program requirements	112	13.6	13.6	13.6
	Reduce the number of courses required	100	12.1	12.1	25.7
	More information about career and jobs	204	24.8	24.8	50.5
	More online courses	76	9.2	9.2	59.7
	Or make it easier to transfer credits from another college	277	33.6	33.6	93.3
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	51	6.3	6.3	99.6
	REFUSE	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q22. Which one of the following statements comes closest to how you feel about how much colleges need to change to increase the value of a college degree:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Colleges must make major changes in educational and business practices.	255	31.0	31.0	31.0
	Colleges should make some changes in educational and business practices.	463	56.2	56.2	87.2
	Or colleges do not need to make changes in educational and business practices.	79	9.6	9.6	96.8
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	25	3.1	3.1	99.9
	REFUSE	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	

Q23. Who do you think is most responsible for making changes in educational and business practices that would increase the value of a college degree:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The colleges alone	87	10.5	11.6	11.6
	Colleges working with business	373	45.4	50.2	61.8
	Or colleges working with the state and federal governments	258	31.3	34.6	96.5
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	26	3.2	3.5	100.0
	Total	743	90.4	100.0	
Missing	System	79	9.6		
Total		822	100.0		

Q24. Who do you trust more to take responsibility for improving college access, affordability and quality:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Nonpartisan boards of trustees and college presidents	434	52.7	52.7	52.7
	The governor and state agencies	101	12.3	12.3	65.0
	Or the state Legislature?	167	20.3	20.3	85.3
	NO ONE	72	8.7	8.7	94.0
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	48	5.8	5.8	99.8
	REFUSE	2	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	822	100.0	100.0	