



## Special Populations: Who Are They?

Special population students are defined as:

- Economically Disadvantaged
- Limited English Proficient
- Disabled
- Single Parents
- Displaced Homemakers (Students who have been dependent on the income of another family member but are no longer supported by that income and have diminished workforce skills)
- Nontraditional (Students training for occupations where fewer than 25% of the workers are of the students' gender.)

This product and the study on which it is based were funded pursuant to grant #04-0342-001, awarded to Yosemite Community College District and administered by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the California Department of Education through the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 (VTEA).

## Career and Technical Education Leads to Success!

### The "Success for All" study demonstrates

that despite economic, academic, and other disadvantages, special population students who receive career and technical education in California community colleges are able to successfully narrow the earnings and employment gap relative to other students.

The more career and technical education attained, the more likely special population students are to be employed year-round. Special population students with associate degrees and those with 60+ unit certificates have the highest gains.

In general, the earnings of women in occupations traditionally held by males are higher than the earnings of women in occupations traditionally held by females. However, women in nontraditional careers still earn less than their male counterparts.

- Special population women increased their median annual earnings by 182%.
- Special population men increased their median annual earnings by 149%.

**Specifically:**  
After receiving career and technical education:

## You Can Help Bridge The Gaps!

**SUPPORT** additional financial aid and academic assistance for special population students so they can pursue career and technical education.

**PROVIDE** support mechanisms (e.g. mentoring, role models, support groups) for building skills that enable special population students to succeed.

**ENCOURAGE** special population students to pursue and complete programs that lead to certificates or degrees.

**PROMOTE** programs that encourage and support nontraditional career choices for women.

**BRIDGE** the employment gap for ALL Californians by supporting career and technical education for special population students!



## Did you know?

### Special population students make up over half (52%) of all career and technical education students in California community colleges

Compared to other students, special population students are more likely to be:

- Female
- Non-white
- Lacking a high school diploma
- Unemployed or earning less than other students prior to entering community college

This pamphlet contains highlights of the study, "Success for All: Assessing the Educational and Economic Outcomes of California Community College Special Population Students," by Anita K. Mathur, prepared for the California Joint Special Populations Advisory Committee under contract to Foothill Associates, 2004.

The study looked at students who exited the California community college system in 1999-2000 with a vocational degree or certificate, or at least 12 units of vocational credits. It linked these students' records with California Employment Development Department wage records by social security number. There were 48,736 students in the sample.

The full study is available at [www.casp.cc](http://www.casp.cc)

California Special Populations  
Research funded by the  
California Joint Special Populations Advisory Committee  
YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
PO Box 4065  
Modesto CA 95352

California Special Populations



## Success for All



Bridging Employment Gaps for Special Populations in California