SUMMARY OF PROGRAM SUCCESS FACTORS: PERKINS CASE STUDY

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The Office of Institutional Research & Assessment at Queensborough Community College (QCC) designed and executed a research study to identify success factors in Perkins (career vocational) programs. Initial research identified six program factors which correlated with student success two years after using a Perkins program (see Office of Institutional Research & Assessment website under Assessments/Program Assessment/Summary of Program Success Factors: Perkins Case Study, February 2005).

The Office of Institutional Research & Assessment followed up this previous research with a study that looked at student success four years after using a Perkins program, and that used more stringent statistical analysis to narrow down success factors in the programs. These are the two major findings.

Findings:

I. On average, 50.7% of the 4,944 Perkins program users over the three semester period of F'00, SP'01 and F'01 are successful four years after participating in at least one Perkins program. Success is defined as 'Four years after participating in the Perkins program, the student is either enrolled in QCC/another college or has graduated from QCC/another college.

II. After establishing the four year success rate for Perkins program users, the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment identified which Perkins program characteristics correlate with four year success. Based on logistic regression statistical analysis, students who received specially designed hard copy materials* as part of their Perkins program had a higher likelihood of success than students who did not receive specialized hard copy materials.

* Hard Copy Materials: the development and use of new or up-dated workbooks, textbooks, and worksheets/hand-outs. These materials are typically part of designing or updating a curriculum. Examples include new textbooks, hand-outs and worksheets, writing materials, and instructional support materials.