Most Americans feel that their college education was beneficial, but they vary with respect to how well they felt their post-secondary education prepared them for work. The majority (about 62 percent) believe their college degree contributed toward their intellectual growth. Slightly more than half (53 percent) thought it was a stepping stone for job opportunities, and 49 percent reported it gave them specific job-related knowledge and experience. When asked how their education has prepared them for the workforce, professional and technical certificate earners were most likely to respond positively — 26 percent said very well and another 52 percent somewhat well. In comparison, about 12 percent of associate-degree earners felt their education prepared them very well and another 46 percent somewhat well. Sixteen percent of baccalaureate completers indicated their education prepared them very well for the workforce and 51 said somewhat well. Read more.

For more information, contact Kent Phillippe, associate vice president for research and student success at the American Association of Community Colleges, at (202) 416-4505 or kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu, or Rahel Tekle, AACC research associate, at (202) 416-4508 or rtekle@aacc.nche.edu.


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**Prepared for the workforce**

*Technical career students most strongly feel that their education prepared them for their jobs.*

**How well does post-high school education prepare students for the workforce?**

- **Four-year degree**
  - Very well: 16%
  - Somewhat well: 51%
  - Not too well: 21%
  - Not well at all: 8%

- **Two-year degree**
  - Very well: 12%
  - Somewhat well: 46%
  - Not too well: 25%
  - Not well at all: 13%

- **Professional technical certificate**
  - Very well: 26%
  - Somewhat well: 52%
  - Not too well: 15%
  - Not well at all: 5%