



Educational Survey Executive Summary

Gap Analysis – Educational Survey

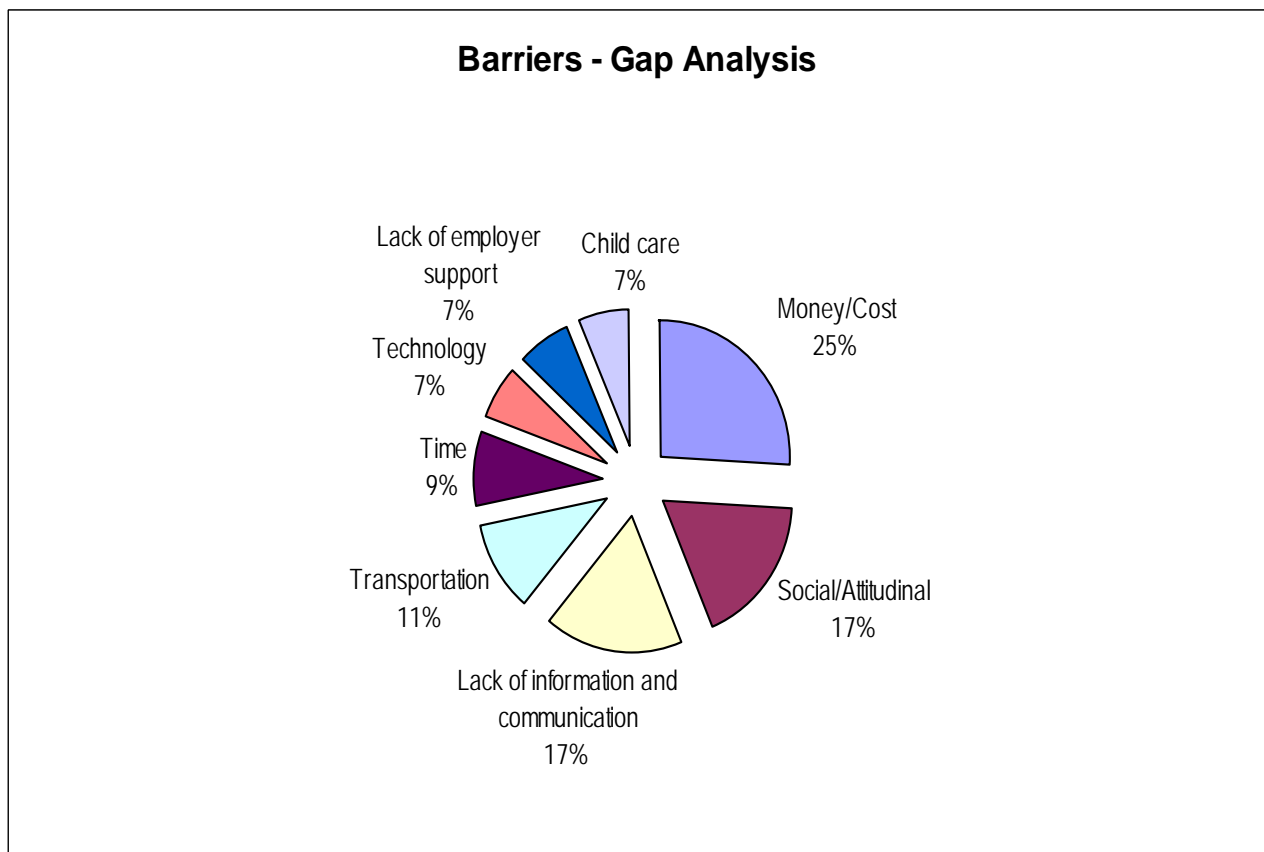
During the months of December 2006 and January 2007, we surveyed by phone companies, organizations and institutions that provide training in the 14 county WIRED region. (The counties include Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Fulton, Howard, Miami, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Wabash, Warren, and White.) The following questions were asked. Answers are reflected in the corresponding charts and narratives.

The macro question:

What gaps do you think exist in the education or training resources of the region?

The micro questions:

1. What barriers do you think exist for participation in regional learning opportunities?

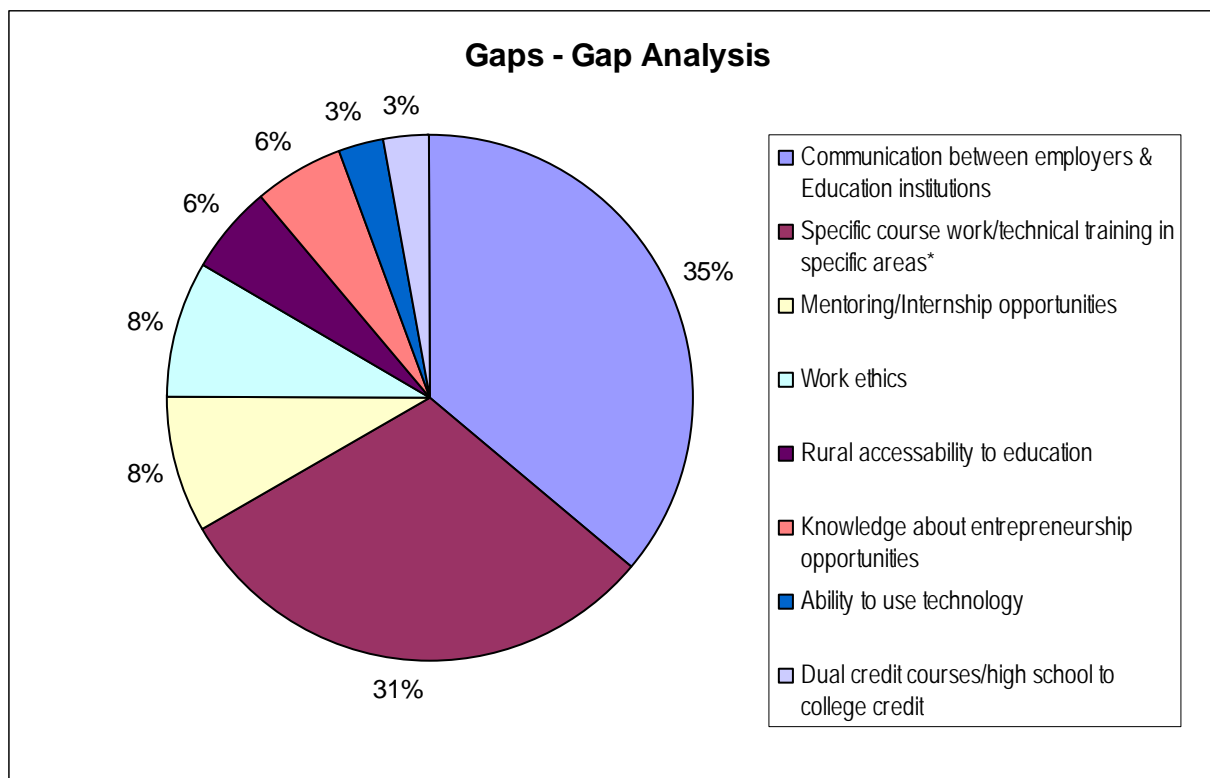


Of the surveys conducted, **money or cost** (25% of all answers) was perceived as the biggest barrier to further education or lifelong learning opportunities.

Social or attitudinal barriers (17%) include: fear of failing, lack of motivation, don't see the importance or value of what's available, lack of self-confidence, etc.

Lack of information and communication (17%) includes: lack of understanding or knowledge of what's available, the need for better communication and link between educators, the general public and employers, and visibility of existing opportunities.

2. What areas of interest, fields of education or lifelong learning opportunities are not currently available in the region (gaps)?



Communication between employers and education institutions, the largest perceived gap (35%) encompassed a variety of comments, including: companies and schools don't know what each other needs, there is no organized process within the community to decrease overlap or meet the real needs of the region or promote current offerings, and there needs to be a better communication/link between educators and the general public.

A list of **Specific course work and technical training in specific areas*** is as follows:

- Agri-business
- Computer service classes
- Education
- Healthcare training
- Machinery/Equipment maintenance
- Nutrition
- Personal financial management
- Pre-engineering
- Public safety
- Quality control
- Spanish (applied)