



FFA officers meet with Secretary Duncan. Pictured, left to right: Margaret Romer, OVAE; Jason Troendle, secretary; and regional vice presidents Kenneth Quick, Cain Thurmond, and Alicia Hodnik. Photograph by Paul Wood, U.S. Department of Education

Secretary Duncan Meets New FFA National Officers

Secretary Arne Duncan met the new FFA national officers on Jan. 19, to congratulate them on their elections, thank them for their leadership, and discuss the administration's support for agriculture education and career and technical education. These newly elected officers are Ryan Best, National FFA president, Jason Troendle, secretary, and regional vice presidents Kenneth Quick, Alicia Hodnik, Cain Thurmond, and Seth Pratt. During this school year, the officers will travel across the country to talk with leaders in business, government, and education about setting policies for shaping the future of the National FFA organization and promoting agricultural literacy. Joining Secretary Duncan at the meeting were John White, deputy assistant secretary for rural outreach, Steve Brown, national advisor to the FFA, and other employees of the Department.

Certificate and Degree Completers Are More Employable Than Noncompleters

Data from the NCES report *Beginning Subbaccalaureate Students' Labor Market Experiences: Six Years Later in 2009* compare those who successfully completed certificate and associate degree programs in 2009 with those who became noncompleters.

In spring 2009, certificate completers, compared to noncompleters (most of whom were postsecondary CTE students), were

- less likely to have unemployment spells.
- more likely to be in the labor force and to be employed.
- more likely to: be in career jobs, see education as having helped advance their careers, be in jobs with occupational credentialing, and be employed in health careers (and less likely to be employed in business careers).
- more likely to be employed full-time.
- equally likely to have basic job benefits (e.g., medical, life, retirement).
- more satisfied with the opportunities in their jobs to use their education and receive future training.
- equally likely to be satisfied with the importance and challenge of their jobs and to have overall job satisfaction.
- equal in earnings, types of employers, and satisfaction with pay, fringe benefits, job security, and opportunities for promotion.

Associate degree completers, compared to noncompleters (some of whom are postsecondary CTE students), were

- more likely to be in the labor force, employed, employed full-time, and earning more; to be in career jobs; to see their education as having helped advance their careers; and to be satisfied with the opportunities in their jobs to use their educations and receive future training.
- equally likely to be satisfied with the importance and challenge of their jobs; their overall job satisfaction; their satisfaction with pay, fringe benefits, job security, or opportunities for promotion; and their basic benefits (e.g., medical, life, retirement).
- more likely to work for a nonprofit organization or in health and to be in jobs that require occupational credentials.
- less likely to have unemployment spells.
- less likely to work in business, personal services, or sales.