

## Technical Review Panel No. 34 Calculating Job Placement Rates

### Final Actions

On March 1 and 2, 2011, RTI International, the contractor for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) web-based data collection system, convened a meeting of the IPEDS Technical Review Panel (TRP) in Washington, DC. Meetings of the IPEDS TRP are conducted by RTI to solicit expert discussion and suggestions on a broad range of issues related to postsecondary education and the conduct of IPEDS. The TRP is designed to advise and work with RTI to improve IPEDS data collection and products, data quality, and user-friendliness. The TRP does not report to or advise the Department of Education.

RTI's specific purpose for TRP 34 was to solicit input from the postsecondary education community regarding the calculation of job placement rates as required by gainful employment regulations. The panel consisted of 49 individuals representing institutions, researchers and other data users, state governments, the federal government, higher education associations, and others. RTI convened this IPEDS TRP to allow for a collaborative process and public input into suggesting a methodology for calculating consistent and comparable job placement rates.

The TRP determined that at this time, a single job placement rate methodology could not be developed without further study because of limitations in data systems and available data. While the TRP consensus was that calculating job placement rates using a common metric would be preferable, the group was unable to provide a more definitive suggestion at this time.

After the conclusion of the TRP, RTI posted a summary of suggestions to the web for public comment. RTI solicited comments by notifying keyholders and coordinators through a "This Week in IPEDS" email announcement. Comments were left open for approximately 70 days and the comment period closed on August 1, 2011. During the comment period, RTI received 8 comments from interested parties. Following the comment period, RTI outlined recommendations for NCES based on the outcome of the TRP meeting and subsequent public comment period.

Nothing in the public comment caused NCES, as an independent statistical agency, to modify the recommendation. There are no new **reporting** requirements for institutions as a result of this TRP.

Until NCES is able to develop a placement rate methodology, institutions required by their accrediting agencies and/or State to calculate a placement rate on a program basis must disclose these placement rates and identify the accrediting agency and/or State agency under whose requirements the rate was calculated. If an institution's accrediting agency and/or State requires the institution to calculate a placement rate for either the institution as a whole or for the specific Gainful Employment Program, the institution must use the accrediting agency or State methodology to calculate a placement rate for the program and disclose that rate. Institutions must disclose this information on a program basis even if the formula is for institution-level placement rates. Institutions that are not required by their accreditor or State to calculate a placement rate are exempt from the regulatory requirement to disclose placement rate information.

For information and resources on gainful employment reporting, see the IFAP website Gainful Employment Information Page: <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/GainfulEmploymentInfo/>.