Executive Summary

The Troy University Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness (IRPE) Office conducted an Employer Survey in fall 2005. There were two purposes in surveying employers of Troy University graduates. The first purpose was to determine the characteristics that employers seek in hiring college graduates. The second purpose was to obtain ratings of the Troy University graduates hired by the employers.

The top ten characteristics that employers seek in college graduates that they hire are:

1. Reading skills 100%
2. Work ethic 100%
3. Writing skills 97%
4. Ability to work with co-worker/supervisor 94%
5. Professional ethics in decision-making 93%
6. Job know-how 84%
7. Mathematical skills 80%
8. Courses in major related to organization 80%
9. Technology skills 76%
10. Knowledge of philosophy of organization 64%

The top 10 characteristics of Troy University employed were:

1. Reading skills 96%
2. Ability to work with co-worker/supervisor 95%
3. Oral communication 93%
4. Listening skills 90%
5. Technology skills 89%
6. Work ethic 88%
7. Work output 87%
8. Job skills specific to position 87%
9. Quality of work 87%
10. Writing skills 86%
We mailed surveys on October 3, 2006 to 496 employers of Troy University graduates. Of those mailed, 30 were sent to Dothan employers, 92 to Montgomery employers, and the remaining 374 to Troy University employers. After the surveys were returned to Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness office, each survey was entered online and results were downloaded into survey software for analyzing. Out of 496 surveys mailed, 89 employers responded (18%).

There were eight responses (27%) from the Dothan mail-out. There were 13 responses (14%) from the Montgomery mail-out and there were 68 responses (18%) from Troy.