

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **CLASS OF 2010-GRADUATE SURVEY**

#### **PROJECT OVERVIEW/STUDENT RESPONSE**

The report on the Class of 2010 marks the second time the graduate survey data was collected on-line. Thirty-percent (30%) of the graduating cohort of 1117 responded via an email or cell phone message, or by completing the survey on-line with one of the Mercyhurst Ambassadors. A higher rate of return was projected but the email migration from Lakernet to the Portal stymied these efforts.

A significant change to this year's survey was that it did not commence until 6 months after the May graduation ceremonies. This brings our survey in line with how most other schools conduct their survey. A project that used to be laden with manual labor, conducted over the course of nine months, is now completed primarily through electronic means in just three months.

#### **HIRING PROJECTIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2010**

For the Class of 2010, hiring projections, as determined by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, continued to slide. "Employers expect to hire about 7 percent fewer graduates during 2009-10 than they did in 2008-09 (NACE Research: Job Outlook 2010)." Further complicating the employment chances for the Class of 2010 was the fact that at the end of May 2010, the national unemployment rate stood at 9.7%, identical to the figure facing the Class of 2009.

While economic recovery continues to be sluggish, the placement percentage for the Class of 2010 reflects the hope that a recovery is on the way. On almost every level, the 2010 graduate survey data is more positive than that for the Class of 2009.

#### **OVERVIEW OF SURVEY DATA**

Overall, positive student placement, defined as employed and/or continuing education, climbed from 87% for the Class of 2009 to 95% for the Class of 2010.

Graduates in the Class of 2010 have secured higher wages than their 2009 counterparts. For instance, the number of graduates earning a salary of over \$50,000 climbed to 25% compared to 13% for the Class of 2009, and the number of graduates making \$19,000 or less fell from 18% in 2009 to 11% in 2010.

In general, Mercyhurst graduates feel satisfied that their Mercyhurst education prepared them for their current position, whether they are employed or continuing their education. Seventy-Nine percent (79%) of all graduates are either very satisfied or satisfied with their post-graduation status; an increase of 16% from 2009.

Of those graduates who are employed, 59% are placed in full-time jobs related to their major; an increase of 7% over last year.

For those continuing their education; 58% felt they were very well prepared for this course of study, an increase of 11 points over the class of 2009

Just 8% of the 2010 graduates, who are currently employed, felt Mercyhurst did not prepare them for their current position; a drop of 4 points from the class of 2009.

The experience of completing an internship continues to serve our students well.

Twenty-percent (20%) of those graduates who completed an internship while at Mercyhurst currently work for the company who hosted their internship.

Seventy-six percent (76%) of those students who completed an internship felt that the experience was very significant or significant to securing their current placement.

Those that did an internship received double the number of job offers than those that did not complete an internship.

In every reported wage range but one, the starting salary of a 2010 Mercyhurst graduate who completed an internship was higher than their counterparts who did not complete an internship.

#### PROGRAMS WITH 100% PLACEMENT

Where there was sufficient student response, the following majors had 100% placement:

Administration of Justice	Organizational Leadership
Interior Design	Graphic Design (Post Bacc)
Elementary Education	Music Education
Anthropology/Archaeology	Applied Forensic Sciences
Biology (BA)	Biochemistry
Computer Systems	Mathematics
Sportsmedicine	History

\*\* Two entire Baccalaureate Schools had 100% placement of the graduates who reported: The School of Arts & Humanities and the School of Natural Sciences & Math