



National Society of Professional Surveyors

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Re: Certified Survey Technician (CST) Program Poll Results

Dear Fellow Professional Surveyors:



The NSPS CST Board created a poll for the purpose of improving the CST Program. This poll was sent early in 2014 to all 1400 active CST's in order to obtain feedback on the program, and received 210 responses. The following is a synopsis of the results of the poll.

We were pleasantly surprised that responses noted the most beneficial aspect for participating in the CST program as being personal reward, adding NSPS membership as the single most important recognition they could receive. This shows their dedication to the surveying profession. Other benefits mentioned as important were monetary considerations and employment security.

Another suggestion was to make the CST program more visible and accepted by the entire surveying community. Nationally, the program is utilized mostly in the eastern states. By utilizing this program in all states, and at all levels, we could greatly increase membership and participation through the entire surveying spectrum.

The CST's were asked if they were members of either NSPS or their state society. The vast majority responded that were not a member of either. This is where I believe we are missing the boat with this segment of our profession. We must recognize that we need them, and we want them. They are critical for our future survival, especially considering that the average age of professional surveyors continues to rise.

Based upon another aspect of this poll, we have also initiated a contract with Spatial Media, the publishers of *The American Surveyor*, *LIDAR News*, and *Machine Control* magazines, to create a CST exam preparation and learning website (www.learnkst.com) to help prepare survey technicians to take the Level I, II, and III exams. This online tool is based upon the descriptive work elements as listed in the CST Program Book. Only Level I training is available at this time, as work continues in the development of training for Levels II and III.

I look forward to working with each of you in this endeavor. We hold our future in our hands with these dedicated survey technicians, and they should be encouraged to participate in our Young Surveyors initiative. Information about CST and contact information for area representatives can be found at <http://www.nsps.us.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=522>.

Sincerely,

Curtis W. Sumner
Executive Director NSPS

1. Please rank the level of benefit from your CST certification.

The majority of respondents chose Personal Reward as the main benefit for participating in the CST Program, followed by monetary and employment opportunities.

2. In addition to your certificate, what would you like to receive as recognition of your certification?

The majority of respondents chose NSPS membership as the single most important recognition they could receive.

3. What suggestions do you have for improving the Program?

*Three significant suggestions made by the respondents in order of priority are:
Make the CST Program more visible and more widely accepted by the entire survey community;
Provide more study material for use in test preparation; and
Update the CST exam questions by making them more relevant and modern.*

4. What is your highest level of CST certification?

Over 50% of the respondents report being certified at Level III and the remaining group was split evenly between Levels I and II with a small percentage having obtained Level IV certification.

5. How many years have you been a CST?

Over 50% of the respondents report being a CST for 1-5 years; over 30% report being a CST for 6-10 years; and over 10% being report being a CST for 11-15 years; and only 5% report being a CST for 16-25 years.

6. In which state(s) are you located/working?

The majority of respondents came from states that actively support the CST program by providing training and sponsoring exam test sites.

7. Are you a member of the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)?

70% of the respondents report that they are NOT members of NSPS.

8. Are you a member of a State Surveying Society?

Over 60% of the respondents report that they are NOT members of their State Surveying Societies.