2021 AETI ALUMNI FOLLOW UP

Purpose

The Department of Agricultural Technology Management and Education (AETI) conducted the alumni follow up survey to better inform the future of AETI by obtaining insight from recent graduates (2016-2020). The survey aimed to answer two main questions:

1. What professions do 2016-2020 AETI graduates (undergraduate and graduate) work in after graduating?
2. Did our 2016-2020 graduates feel as if they were part of a community within AETI?
   a. If so, which aspects of their experience were helpful?
   b. If not, do they have recommendations on areas for improvement?

Population

AETI undergraduate and graduate students (all majors) with graduation dates within the last five years, 2016-2020, were included. Based on this criteria, 199 AETI alumni were included, and 50 responses were received.

Methods

A 26-question multiple choice and short answer questionnaire was distributed to the target audience via email. Personal and UArizona email addresses for graduates were obtained from UAccess Analytics. Alumni were located on UAccess Analytics by selecting academic plan codes for AETI's undergraduate and graduate majors and including those with completion terms from 2016-2020. In the first round of distribution (August 16-22, 2021), the questionnaire was sent to personal email addresses. If a personal email address was not available, the questionnaire was sent to the graduate's UArizona email address. Two reminders were sent 48 hours apart and the link expired after a week. Graduates who did not respond to the first round of distribution were included in a second round (August 23-29, 2021) that went to their UArizona email address. If the graduate's UArizona email address was used in the first round, they were not included in the second round. Two reminders were sent 48 hours apart and the link expired after a week. Following the two rounds of distribution, the survey was concluded.

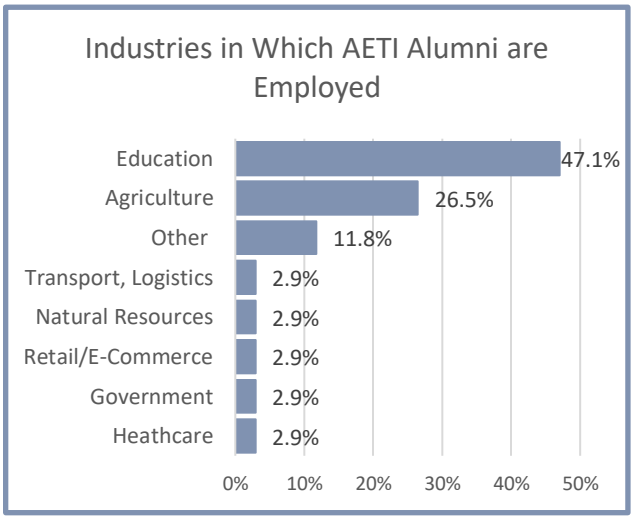
Incentive

To encourage a high response rate, each participant received a $10 incentive to complete the questionnaire. Rybbon was used as an incentives management platform.

Key Findings

The 2021 AETI Alumni Follow Up answered the two target questions. The results are as follows:

1. Where do AETI graduates work? After graduating, 2016-2020 AETI graduates identified 27 unique job titles they were working in spanning eight industries.
   a. The most common job title graduates reported was Agriculture/Agriscience Teacher.
   b. The largest industry graduates identified working in was education



   c. 78% of respondents stated their job is related to their area of study.

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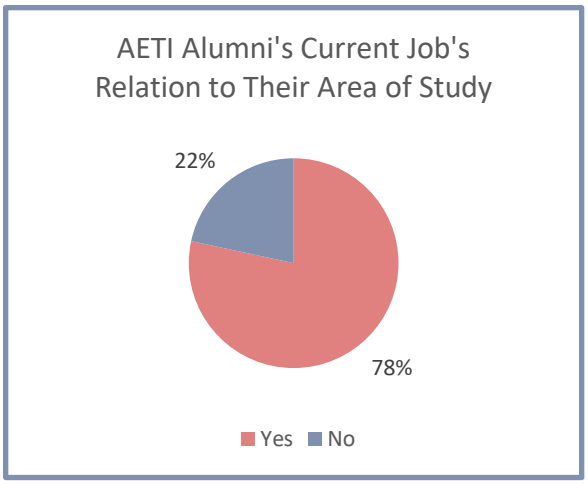
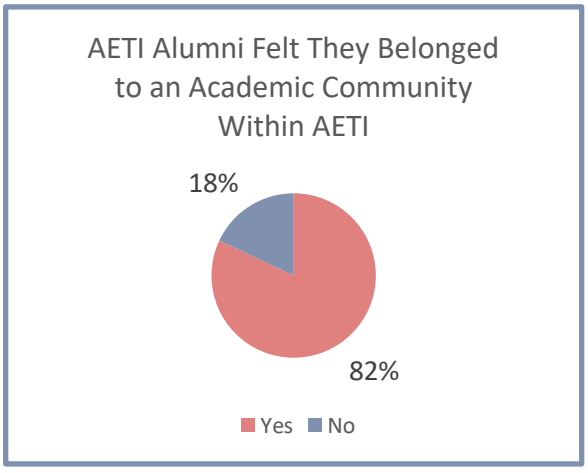
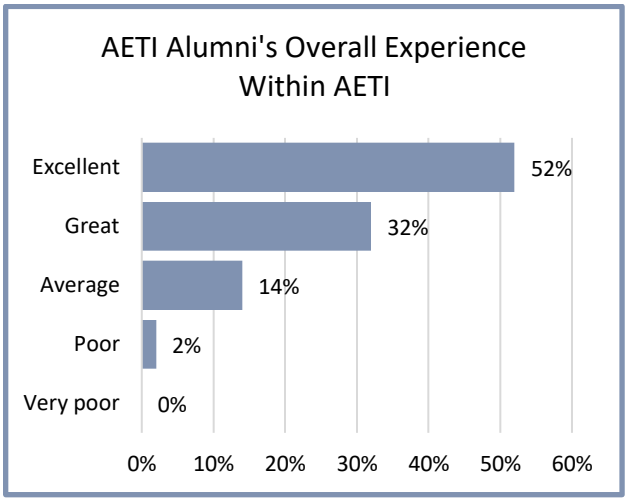


2. 82% of respondents responded "yes" when asked if they felt they were a part of an academic community within AETI.
   a. Graduates most frequently cited AETI faculty/staff (70.27%) as the reason they felt part of an academic community within AETI.
   b. The most frequent reasons students who selected that they did not feel part of a community cited were struggling to find clubs or opportunities to be more involved (28.57%) and time limitations due to work (28.57%).

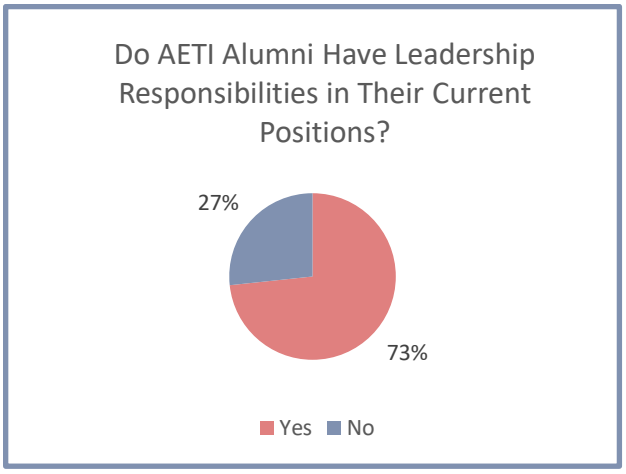


The 2021 Alumni Follow Up also answered sub questions related to graduate's experiences, - leadership responsibilities, and current employment. Highlights include:

- 84% of AETI graduates surveyed rated their overall experience with AETI as "great" or "excellent".



- 73% of AETI graduates surveyed report having a leadership role or leadership responsibilities in their current position.



- 70% of respondents started working within 3 months of their graduation date and 16.6% were employed prior to graduating.