Choosing Employers Over College for More Education

By Paul Fain
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Roughly half of American adults without a college degree (46 percent) said they need additional education to advance in their careers, according to new survey data from the Strada Education Network and Gallup. Employers were the first-choice providers for this group, with 33 percent saying they are most likely to participate in additional education and training from employers. Community colleges were next (23 percent), followed by trade schools or programs (21 percent), and traditional four-year colleges (17 percent).

Slightly more than half of respondents (53 percent) without a degree said they were likely to enroll in courses or training within the next five years. The survey found that 44 percent of respondents without degrees said they were likely to enroll in courses or training from a work-based setting, compared to 38 percent from a traditional educational institution and 15 percent from an online academic provider.

"With this research, we’re hearing from working adults themselves -- and they’re telling us that they want additional education and training, but not exclusively, or even primarily, in the traditional higher education package," Carol D’Amico, Strada's executive vice president of mission advancement and philanthropy, said in a written statement.