

March 2018

TO: Members, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

FROM: Mary Jo Nichols
Grants Administrator

RE: Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

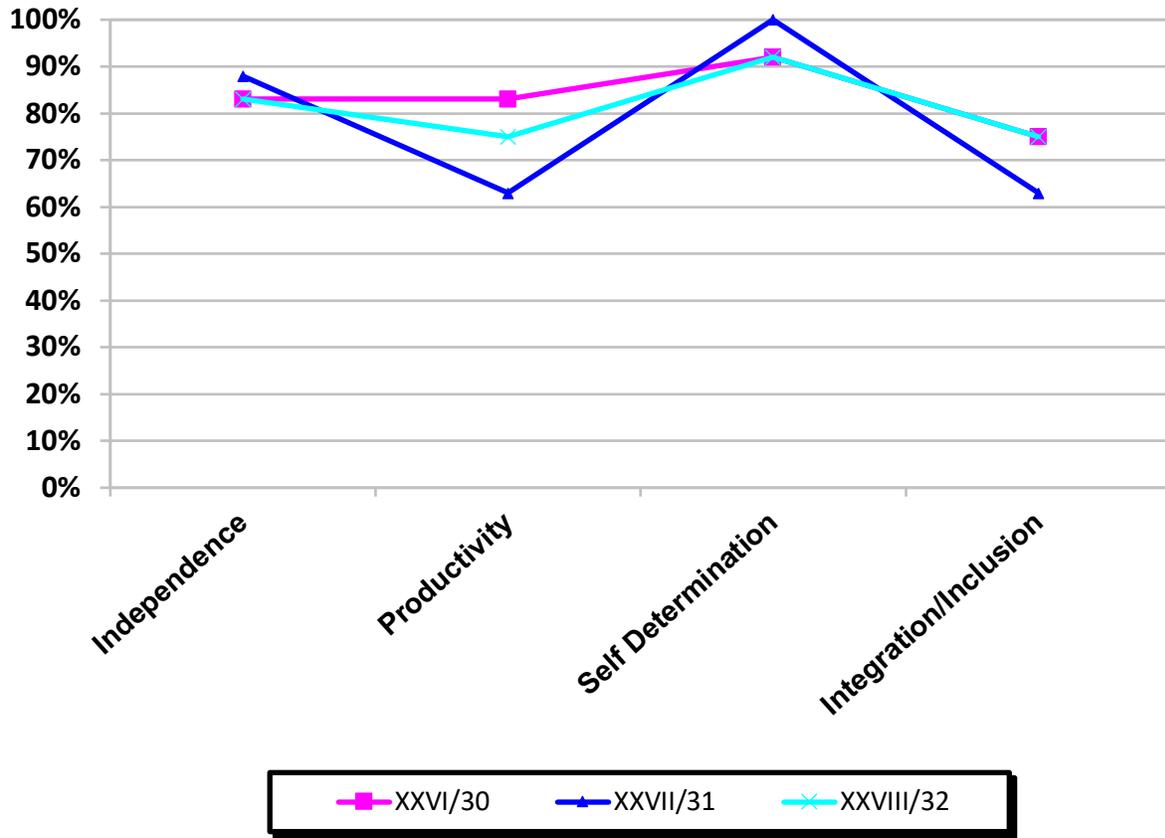
The most recent longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners in Policymaking graduates was completed by Nancy Miller, Metropolitan State University, and submitted on February 18, 2018. Partners Years XXVII through XXIX (Classes 31 through 33) are included in this year's study.

The overall response rate was 42% (33/78); our goal is 40%.

A copy of the complete study is available upon request. Following is a summary of the results:

IPSII Results by Year/Class

	XXVII/31	XXVIII/32	XXVIX/33
Response rate	48%	48%	32%
↑ Independence	58%	100%	88%
↑ Productivity	25%	92%	78%
↑ Self Determination	82%	92%	89%
↑ Integration/Inclusion	67%	75%	89%



	XXVII/31	XXVIII/32	XXIX/33
Skills learned help me to get appropriate services*	92%%	100%	100%
Current leadership skills**	75%	100%	100%

* Most/some of the time
 ** Good-excellent

NOTE: The 2014 Longitudinal Study added a statement about contacting or working with public officials about employment issues, services and supports, and the quality of employment services. For the 2018 Study, a total of 26

Partners graduates responded “yes” to this question – 26/33 (79%).

Partners graduates identified significant changes in the areas of education, employment, housing, family support, case management, health care, friendships, assistive technology, and other areas that they attribute to their Partners experience.

Highlights are as follows:

Education:

1. I stand up for my son’s education rights and they listen.
2. My son is in a certificate program at a technical college that will be funded by Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Partners definitely helped us to help him advocate for his education.
3. More positive supports at school.
4. I was successful in getting my daughter’s IEP changed to meet her needs.

Employment:

1. I moved to St. Cloud where I am a live-in caregiver in exchange for advice and guidance in starting my own business in assistive technology and universal design.

Housing:

1. Housing changes to an independent setting.

Services/Supports

1. Better case management.

2. Our son has been approved for waiver services that has allowed for community integration. I've been able to advocate for his needs with the county case management and the school much more than I ever would have [before].
3. We've started receiving services through our county for our two boys with autism.
4. Increased supports.
5. I have a better case manager.

Other:

1. I've use my skills to have my son more included and get his service dog to attend school with him. This has greatly improved his ability to cope in school and in the community.
2. I'm better able to advocate; and have a better understanding of the laws and rights of individuals with disabilities, and person centered language.
3. More networking opportunities and friendships.

Partners graduates identified skills learned during the program and ones that they continue to use today in both work and family life. This is an indicator of the long term benefits can value of the Partners leadership training program:

- Personal advocacy (10)
- Legislative advocacy (6)
- Networking (3)
- Communication (2)
- Confidence (1)
- Government/how it works (1)
- Patience (1)