Math and Science Teachers – where did they receive their bachelor degrees?

In 2012-13, more than 2,000 new single subject credentials were issued in math and science content areas*. At the state level, the total number of math and science credentials account for about one-third of all single subjects recommended. An analysis of math and science teaching credential holders and the institution where they received their bachelor degrees - California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), and Independent Colleges and Universities (INDEPENDENT) - yielded interesting findings.

Math and science credential holders who earned their bachelor's degree from a CSU, UC, or an independent college or university were as follows: 47%, 36%, and 17%, respectively.

Please note - Some math and science credential holders had higher degrees such as a master’s or doctorate, but, for this analysis only bachelor degrees were included.

But a different picture emerges with respect to the distribution of math and science credentials recommended by the three IHE segments**. (see chart below)

Nearly half (44%) of the individuals who earned math or science credentials were recommended by INDEPENDENT. Another 42% were recommended by CSU. About one-sixth (14%) were recommended by UC.

In math and science, CSU’s share of bachelor degree production (for those later certified to teach in these areas) compared to the CSU credential recommendations was almost the same (47% and 42%, respectively). By contrast, the share of bachelor degree production compared to credential recommendation between UC and INDEPENDENT almost reversed: bachelor degree results were 36% for UC and 17% for INDEPENDENT whereas credential recommendations were 14% for UC and 44% for independent institutions.

*Data include math and science credentials recommended by California Institutions of Higher Educations (IHEs) only.
**Data include both traditional and intern credentials.