Certification = Employability

91% of hiring managers consider employee certification as a criterion for hiring\(^1\)

81% of hiring managers feel that certified individuals perform better \(^1\)

79% of hiring managers feel that certified individuals are more efficient \(^1\)

89% of supervisors say that Microsoft Office certified employees are more proficient users of Microsoft Office programs \(^3\)

50% of individuals believe obtaining a certification makes them more marketable \(^2\)

Sources
1. MCP Program Satisfaction Study 2010
2. Intrepid Survey
3. Certiport Research 2009

“It’s truly a global marketplace, especially in the IT world. If you don’t have a certification that validates you have the needed skills, you’re at a significant disadvantage.”

Bill Doherty, @ONE Project, College System of California
It is not merely enough to understand which occupations will be high growth and high salary; today's educators must impart the skills that will be required for those jobs, too. To determine those skills, IDC examined 14.6 million job postings between April and September 2013 from 25,000 job boards and staffing companies' corporate web sites.

The only software package called out within the top 20 skills across high growth/high salary occupations was Microsoft Office, ranking #2 in top skills.

Comparison of Top Skills for High-Growth/High-Wage Occupations and All Occupations in the United States

- Oral and written communication skills*
- Microsoft Office*
- Detail oriented*
- Problem solving*
- Self-starting/self-motivated
- Organizational skills*
- Work independently