

LBL Retiree Survey Status Report – 10/13/2011

The LBNL retiree survey (designed and administered by the EX-Ls) was launched on June 11 and closed on August 31. We received **425 responses** (19% of the total 2282 LBNL retirees). It should be noted that the UC Berkeley Retirement Center which sent out the initial notice of the survey and many e-mail reminders has e-mail addresses for only 500 of the total retirees; the other ~1800 retirees were contacted via the Center's newsletter, the CenterPiece, and a postcard mailing by the EX-Ls.

Analysis of the results is still underway, but we can already see there are many interesting and useful responses that will allow us to create a fairly broad and comprehensive picture of Lab retirees. Here's a preview.

328 (~78%) of respondents are between the ages of 60-80; 214 (56%) have been retired \leq 10 yrs, 121 (32%) between 11 and 20 yrs

70% of the respondents are male, 30% female

The majority of respondents (81%) live in the East Bay or Greater Bay Area

180 EX-Ls members (out of a total membership of 271) responded to the survey; 147 respondents were about evenly divided over whether the EX-Ls ought to organize more social events; 2/3s of the 180 found the newsletter and email as the best way to communicate with them (the recent move to an electronic newsletter was probably not reflected in this)

183 respondents are scientists or engineers; 188 respondents were active professionally within the last 3 years, with many publications, invited talks, and students tutored

Retirees have been active volunteers, both at the Lab (42) and in their communities (212)

23 received awards for professional activities and 21 for community service

310 responded with educational activities like attending lectures, college level courses, etc.; 400 respondents reported on activities/hobbies – the 5 most frequent activities were reading, computer, dining out, gardening, and travel

54% of 393 respondents felt they were very well prepared for retirement and another 25% felt they were well prepared (4 on a scale of 1 – 5)

42 and 41%, respectively, reported that their health was either good (4 out of 5) or excellent (5 of 5)

15% of the respondents are caregivers for a parent/spouse-partner/adult child, etc.

56% reported that their retirement experience so far has been excellent and another 32% report that it has been good (4 on a scale of 1 – 5)

284 respondents provided insights into what surprised them most about retirement – many of them noting how fast the time goes and how busy they are, how much fun they are having and how satisfied they are; and some noting the loss of a loved one or a noticeable reduction in physical and mental abilities

We are now continuing the data analysis and deciding how best to present the data. Final

results will be posted on the EX-Ls website (HYPERLINK "http://www.lbl.gov/EX-Ls" <http://www.lbl.gov/EX-Ls>) later this year and shared with LBNL management.

Janis Dairiki and Rich Sextro, October 13, 2011