Background
The Mary Rose Tully Training Initiative (MRTTI) is an International Board Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE)-approved Pathway 2 clinical training program in breastfeeding and lactation. MRTTI is a part of the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute (CGBI), and the program boasts a 100% pass rate on the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) exam. Prior to this assessment, MRTTI had not assessed alumnae satisfaction or career outcomes.

Purpose
To ascertain the effectiveness of the MRTTI in improving graduates’ career prospects.

Methods
A 35-question mixed methods Qualtrics survey was created and disseminated among MRTTI alumnae in March 2014. Geographic information systems (GIS) methods were used to map the distribution of MRTTI alumnae across North Carolina in comparison to the distribution of IBCLCs and MRTTI training sites.

GIS data sources:
• MRTTI alumnae location from Qualtrics survey, 2014
• IBCLC numbers by NC zip code from IBLCE, 2013
• MRTTI Clinical Site Information from Director of Training Program, 2014

Response Characteristics
• 73% response rate
• Ages 22-43
• 100% Female
• 86% White; 11% Black/African American (non-Hispanic); and 4% Asian

Key Findings
Career Success:
• 57% are currently working as IBCLCs
• 70% “definitely” use their IBCLC in their work

Program Satisfaction:
• 96% “agree” or “strongly agree” that they would recommend MRTTI to a friend
• 82% agree or strongly agree that the program gave them a competitive employment advantage.
• 29% said there was “not enough outside funding”

Conclusions
Based upon the survey results, the assessment team identified five key recommendations for MRTTI:
1. Expand clinical site locations and recruitment efforts
2. Prioritize initial communication regarding career options for non-clinically licensed applicants
3. Identify and develop funding sources for students
4. Facilitate professional support resources
5. Continue alumni assessment annually

Implementing these recommendations would add to MRTTI’s already strong program and enable it to better equip graduates.