Orienting Pathways to Life after College
STUDENTS SPEAK: WHY COLLEGE?
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Orienting Pathways To Life after College

Closing Plenary Session
Saturday, June 24 – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
One More Time:

Why, exactly, are we doing this?
Reclaiming The American Dream?
Lifetime Earnings Gains by Degree Type (compared to HS only)

- Bachelor's Degree:
  - Females: 92%
  - Males: 46%

- Associates Degree:
  - Females: 40%
  - Males: 17%

- Certificate:
  - Females: 20%
  - Males: 8%

Fall 2014: 2.9 Million First-time Degree-seeking Students

Potential of Transfer to increase Social Mobility:

Community Colleges accounted for 37% of all new students starting college in the fall of 2014.

Approximately 80% intend to transfer and earn a bachelor’s degree.

Source: Digest of Ed. Statistics, Table 305.10
First-time Students Transferred to a 4-year Completed bachelor's degree

- 720,000 degree-seeking Community College entrants
- 80% intend to earn a Bachelor’s Degree
- 33% transferred to a 4-year in 6 years
- 29% of transfers earn award before transfer
- 14% earn BA within 6 years

Source: Jenkins & Fink (2016)
Children's prospects of earning more than their parents have fallen from 90% to 50% over the past half century.

Source: The Equality of Opportunity Project
The Equality of Opportunity Project

Study of intergenerational mobility in the U.S. using administrative data on 40 million children

“The question of whether the U.S. is the “land of opportunity” does not have a clear answer.”

- Substantial variation in intergenerational mobility *within* the U.S.
- Some lands of opportunity and some lands of persistent inequality
- Much variation across colleges in “mobility rates” --
In the nation as a whole, children from the highest-income families end up 30 percentiles higher in the distribution of individual earnings on average than those from the lowest-income families.
The Geography of Upward Mobility in America
Children's Chances of Reaching Top 20% of Income Distribution Given Parents in Bottom 20%

The map shows the chances of rising out of poverty to the top of the income distribution based on where children grew up.

Source: The Equality of Opportunity Project
Colleges and Upward Mobility

Upward mobility rates — measured, for instance, by the fraction of students who come from families in the bottom income quintile and reach the top quintile — vary substantially across colleges.

Source: The Equality of Opportunity Project
Mobility Rates: Success Rate vs. Access by College

- Public Colleges (Avg. MR = 1.93%)
- Private Non-Profit Colleges (Avg. MR = 1.87%)
- For-Profit Colleges (Avg. MR = 2.41%)
Colleges vary in their effect on Social Mobility

Success Rate: $P(\text{Child in Q5} \mid \text{Par in Q1})$

Access: Percent of Parents in Bottom Quintile

- Princeton
- Brown
- Harvard
- Yale
- Columbia
- MIT
- Stanford
- Chicago

Ivy Plus Colleges (Avg. MC = 2.2%)

Equality of Opportunity Project (Chetty et al., 2017)
ACCESS: What kind of students attend San Jacinto Community College District?

Median family income $55,700

Average income percentile 53rd

Share of students from top 0.1% <1%
...from top 1% <1%
...from top 5% 2.5%
...from top 10% 7.1%
...from top 20% 0%
...from bottom 20% 13%
OUTCOMES: How San Jacinto Community College District students fare later in life. *How many who are born poor become upwardly mobile?*

Among the lowest  About typical  Among the highest
IN THE NATION  IN TEXAS  AMONG TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

Median individual income at age 34 (for men and women)

Average income percentile

Share who end up in the top 1%, top 5%, top 20%, bottom 20%
Reclaiming The American Dream?