What Ever Happened to ........

A follow-up study of Cal State Northridge Students

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Objective

- To measure the labor market outcomes for all CSUN Students 1995-2000
- Graduate and Undergraduates
- Dropouts and Graduates
- The cherished view of some academics that higher education started out on the Acropolis of scholarship and was desecrated by descent into the Agora of materialistic pursuits led by ungodly commercial interests and scheming public officials and venal academic leaders is just not true for the university systems that have developed at least since 1200 A.D. If anything, higher education started in the Agora, the market place, at the bottom of the hill and ascended to the Acropolis on top of the hill…Mostly it has lived in tension, at one and the same time at the bottom of the hill, at the top of the hill, and on many paths in between.

The Approach

- CSUN Student Records
- California EDD Base Wage file

Analysis Data Base
CSUN Student Records

- All Entering Students 1995-2000
  - First time freshman
  - Transfers
  - PostBac
  - Total 44,437

- Allows us to trace graduates and exiters
California Base-Wage File

- All California Workers with earnings covered by Unemployment Insurance.

- Quarterly earnings reported by employers, not self reported.

- Individuals may have multiple employers in a quarter.
Creating a Match

- Matched student SSN to Base Wage file.
- To be match must have no more than two consecutive quarters of no earnings.
- Included

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Key Assumption

- Records with **three or more** consecutive quarters are not found.
- You may:
  - Move out of state
  - Out of labor market (raising children, deceased,)
  - Other possible explanations: in military, federal employee, self employed.
Other Measurement Stuff

- Earning are adjusted for inflation to 2010 $$$
- 1995-2000 entering students are put in to exiting annual cohorts 2000-2005
- Dropouts are student who stopped attending 1995-2010 without completing a degree.
- Identified students who graduated else where with National Clearing House
Number of Exiters and Study Population
We created six paths through CSUN

- Enrolled as:
  - First time
  - Freshman or Enrolled as UG
  - Transfer

- Success Stories:
  - Graduated Bach (only)CSUN

- Problem Children:
  - Did not Graduate

- Other People's Children:
  - Bachelor Grad Other Institution

- Stars:
  - Graduate Degree Other Institution

- Enrolled as PostBac

- Graduate Completers

- Graduate Drops
Average Earnings: All Years, All Colleges

- **Success Stories**
  - Year 1: $32,203
  - Year 5: $48,930

- **Problem Children**
  - Year 1: $24,659
  - Year 5: $37,180

- **Other People's Children**
  - Year 1: $35,811
  - Year 5: $53,221

- **Stars**
  - Year 1: $49,091
  - Year 5: $62,650

- **Graduate Completers**
  - Year 1: $56,635
  - Year 5: $68,294

- **Graduate Drops**
  - Year 1: $48,113
  - Year 5: $57,981

* All earnings adjusted for inflation to 2010 dollars
Percent Found: All Years, All Colleges

- **Success Stories**: 72.1%
- **Problem Children**: 69.5%
- **Other People's Children**: 61.8%
- **Stars**: 72.1%
- **Graduate Completers**: 80.8%
- **Graduate Drops**: 72.6%

Year 1 vs. Year 5 comparisons.
Average Earnings: All Years, All Colleges with National Benchmark

Success Stories

- $32,203
- $36,370

Graduate Completers

- $56,635
- $51,456

☐ CSUN Base Wage Average Earnings (Year 1)  ■ Benchmark (Year 2) *


** All earnings adjusted for inflation to 2010 dollars
The Larger Economy Matters

CSUN: Bachelors in Computer Science: Year 5

* All earnings adjusted for inflation to 2010 dollars