State Level Projects

- March 2013 – Higher Education Pays – Version 1.0
- April 2015 – Education Pays in Colorado – Version 2.0
- June 2016 – Launch My Career Colorado – Version 3.0
- Upcoming CDHE Earnings Project – Version TBD
- July 2019 – H.B. 18-1226
Higher Education Pays (2013) Version 1.0

- Year 1 earnings of Colorado public college graduates from FY 2007- FY 2011
- Report asserted that certain types of associates degrees were more valuable than bachelors degrees: AAS = $46,000  BA = $39,000  AA = $31,000

Challenges
- Only year 1 earnings after graduation for completers, so it fails to account for average lifetime earnings.
- Missing nearly ¾ of grads.
  - (1) Out-of-state;
  - (2) self-employed;
  - (3) federal gov; and
  - (4) many graduate students
- Graduates from FY 2007 to FY 2011. Only 5 years of data and many are students that graduated during the “Great Recession”.

University of Colorado
Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

FOUR CAMPUSES UNITED
• Year 1, 5 and 10 earnings of public colleges and DU, Regis, CCU Graduates from FY 2002 - FY 2012 (additional data included from Version 1.0).

• Technical, career-oriented associate’s degrees can match or even exceed the earnings of graduates with bachelor’s degrees.

• However, on average bachelor’s degrees recipients earn more.

Challenges

• Improvement over Version 1 but same issues persist.

• Missing over ½ of grads.
  - (1) Out-of-state;
  - (2) self-employed;
  - (3) federal gov; and
  - (4) many graduate students
Colorado was one of four States supported by College Value grants totaling $3.5 million from USA Funds (now Strata).

Grant ends December 2018.

Website Tool was developed by College Measures, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and Gallup Inc.

https://launchmycareercolorado.org/

- Top Picks for Colorado
- Hot Jobs
- Top Majors
- Colorado Schools

Year 1, 5 and 10 earnings of public College and DU, Regis, CCU Graduates from 2002-2014
Version 3.0 – Challenges

- More functionality than Version 1.0 and 2.0 but same issues persist.
- Missing over ½ of grads.
  - (1) Out-of-state;
  - (2) self-employed;
  - (3) federal gov.; and
  - (4) many graduate students
- Aside for data earnings concerns, many other calculations are based on assumptions and methodologies that were never validated by any of the schools and other information is out of date and lacks citations.
- Website doesn’t always work / intermittent functionality.
CDHE Earnings Projects (2018+) Version TBD

U.S. Census Collaboration – Draft findings to CDHE in September/October 2018

Current project linking CDHE SURDS (Student Unit Record Database System) data with U.S. Census LEHD (Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics) data.

Key Improvements:
- Includes non-Colorado earners
- Includes most federal employees (no DOD employees)
- These additions may improve match rate resulting in more accurate earnings data.

The CDHE does not yet know how it will use this Earnings Project data but it will likely inform legislative reporting due July 2019.

University of Texas System

University of Texas System used this process and data from Census to develop its own website, its match rates for undergraduate degree completers ranged from 64% to 89%: https://seekut.utsystem.edu/
HB18-1226: Higher Education Review Degree Program Costs And Outcomes

- CDHE must provide Return on Investment Report by July 31, 2019
  - Undergraduate & Certificate programs offered
  - Number of undergraduate students enrolled
  - Average Time to Completion
  - Average Cost for Completion (Tuition and Fees)
  - Average Student Loan Debt
  - Match Rate (will allow reader to know what percentage of completers earnings were matched to a degree)
  - Average Annual Earnings at year 1, 5, and 10 (may rely on US Census Earnings Data for more complete information)