NAVIGATING THE PATH INTO AND THROUGH COLLEGE

A policy perspective on my personal journey

PRESENTED BY
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STARTING POINT
The chances for success for children of poverty is slim

The chances of a child born into the bottom 20% income level reaching the top 5% income level

1 in 100

BEATING THE ODDS
A college education IS a way out of poverty

4X

Poor children are four times as likely to become wealthy if they attain a four-year college degree.

STACKED DECK
Likelihood of earning a bachelor’s degree is low

Percent earning bachelor’s degrees by age 24

Highest income quartile: 79%
Lowest income quartile: 11%

LEFT BEHIND
Low-income students *still* go to college at lower rates than high-income students 40 years ago

Percentage of high school graduates immediately enrolling in college, 1972-2011

Note: Data represent two-year moving average because of small sample sizes. NCES, *The Condition of Education* 2010 (Table A-20-1) and *Digest of Education Statistics* 2012 (Table 236).
UNDERMATCH
College-qualified low-income students are more likely to go to less selective institutions – or not go at all

Among 2004 High School Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% Taking at Least Algebra II in High School</th>
<th>% Enrolling Immediately in a 4-Year College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income Students</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-Income Students</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduated 3rd in my class
3.99 GPA (on 4-point scale)
31 composite ACT score

No AP/IB courses available
First in my family to go to college
Pell and work-study eligible
### CHOICE SET
Colleges I knew about but didn’t really consider at all

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Grad Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio State University</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albion College</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: College Navigator
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Grad Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miami University</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Western Reserve University</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Dayton</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent State University</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Toledo</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

It all worked out though, right?

- Graduated in four years with no debt
- Met my husband
- Got full tuition scholarship plus stipend for graduate school
- Work in DC
- Live in the suburbs with good schools
EXCEPTION, NOT THE RULE
Can’t leave college access and success to chance

At the University of Toledo today

- Over 7,000 students - or 40% - receive Pell Grants

- Net price for low-income students is about $12,000 a year.

- Fewer than 1 in 2 students graduate within six years
NOW SHOWING

Redefining ACCESS for the 21st-Century Student