

INTRODUCTION

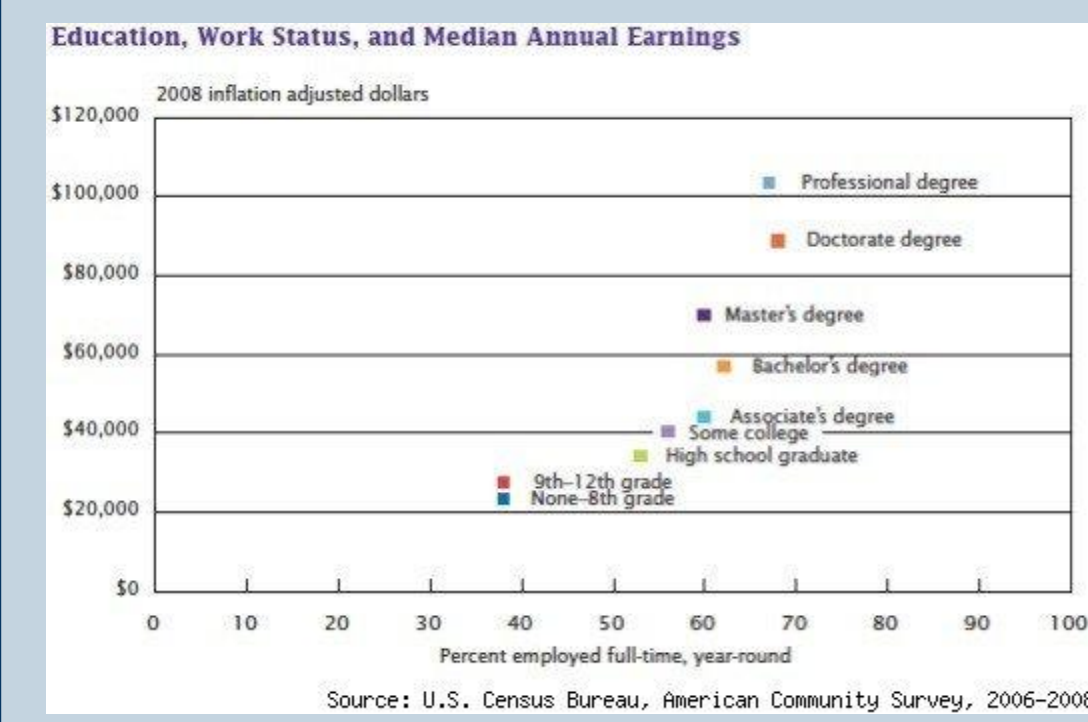


Figure 1. College degrees are becoming an increasingly necessary step in increasing socioeconomic standing. (Dep. of Com, 2011)

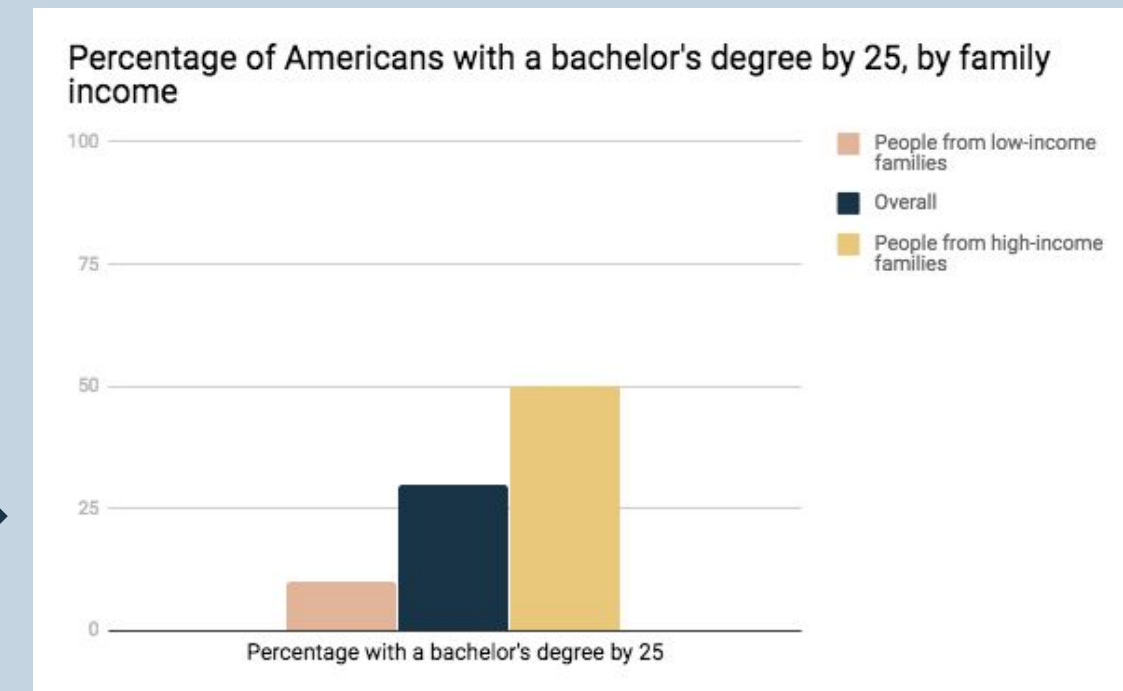


Figure 2. Low-income students earn disproportionately fewer college degrees.

Result: Income inequality is further exacerbated

Low-income students are underrepresented because:

1. Increasingly competitive nature of college admissions
2. Increasing price of college
3. Lack of support during the college process

(Increasing College Opportunity, 2014)

What we're missing: **Concrete, constructive ways to support low-income students during the college process**

How can access to higher education for low-income students be increased?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

Surveyed all high schoolers to determine the demand for a panel of college students to speak to high schoolers

Organized and hosted a panel of low-income or first-generation college students for AVID seniors

Surveyed AVID seniors to determine the efficacy of the panel

DATA AND FINDINGS

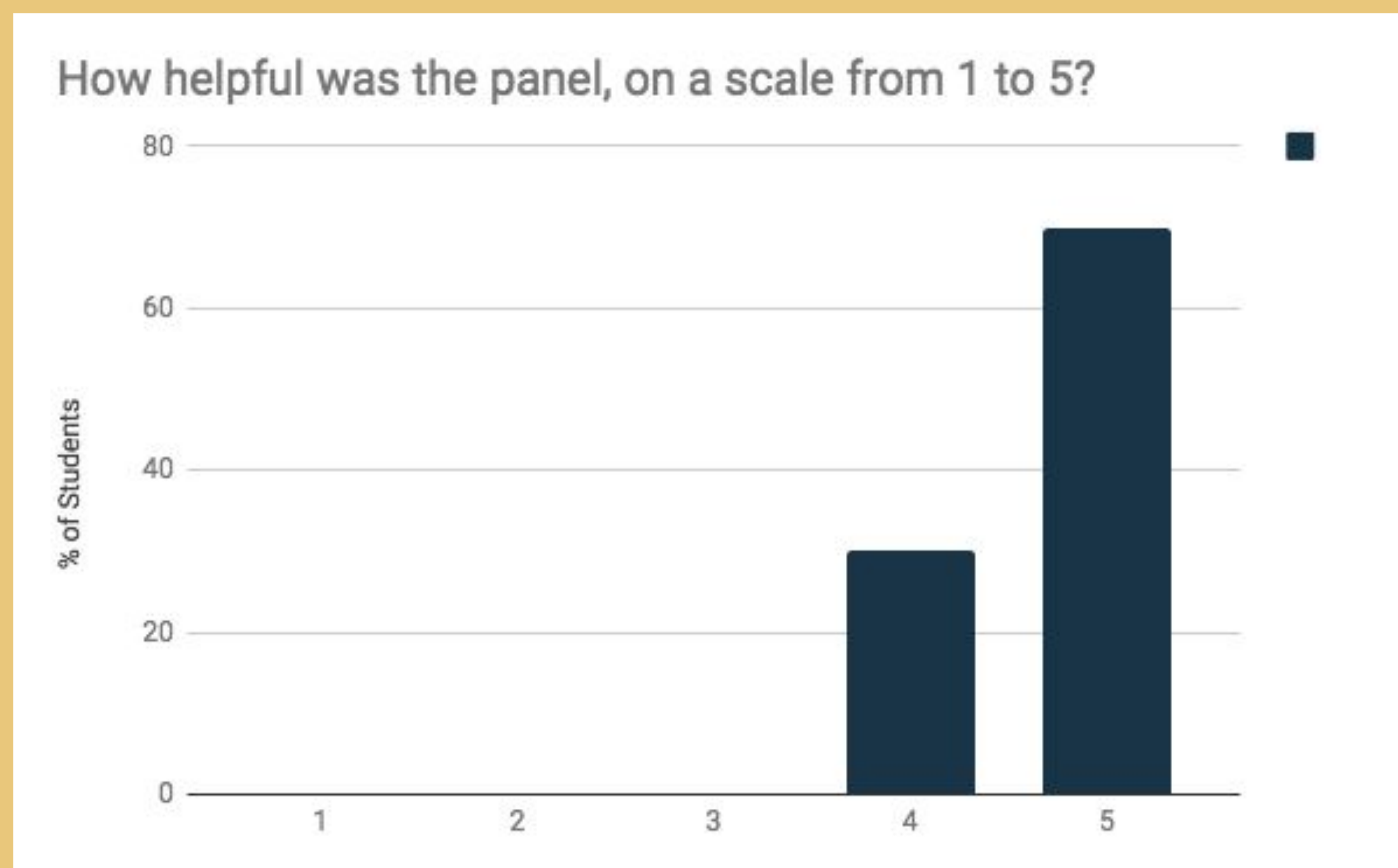


Figure 3. Results of the post-panel survey.

100% of AVID seniors surveyed believe the panel should be continued for future AVID seniors

Figure 4.

DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

AVID students appreciated the panel, found it very helpful.

All students found the panel to be helpful, and the majority found it to be very helpful (Fig. 3). All students believe it should be continued (Fig. 4).

AVID is a college readiness program, and although AVID students aren't necessarily low-income, there is enough overlap for my results for AVID students to be generalized to low-income students.

AVID students can represent low-income students

Conclusion: The panel is an effective way to help increase college access for low-income students

Given such overwhelmingly positive feedback, the panel was demonstrably a concrete and constructive way of increasing college access for low-income students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

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CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

Hosting a panel of low-income or first-generation college students is a concrete and constructive step in supporting low-income students in the college process.

It should not replace any current measures, but rather it should be continued annually at Paly and other schools to supplement the strategies already in place.