

Social Mobility: Can Community Colleges Make a Difference?

Pamela L. Eddy, William & Mary

Richard M. Romano, SUNY Broome/Cornell



William & Mary
School of Education

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Factors Influencing Student Success

Institutional Effectiveness—influenced by:

- **Internal factors**—*students admitted, curriculum, budget priorities, campus processes, leadership*
- **External factors**—*location, business cycle, national and local labor markets, distribution of income, funding support, migration patterns, state and national fiscal policy (less/no influence)*

Measuring Social Mobility

Factors include: Education, occupational status, and income

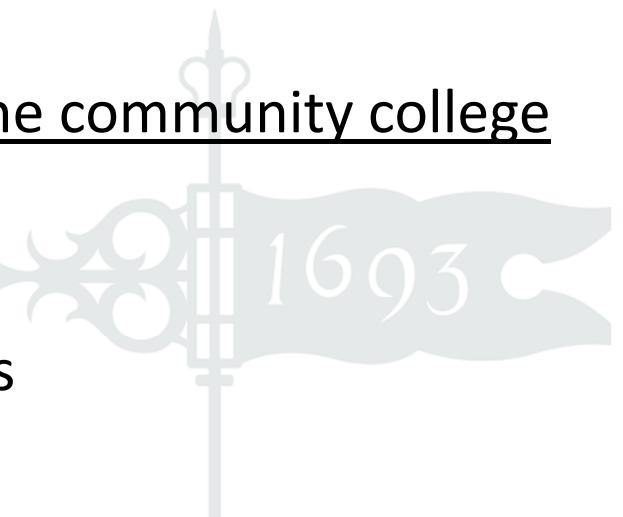
➤ **Intra-generational mobility** (many studies)

Lifetime income streams, rates of return

Studies of these show that it pays to go to the community college

➤ **Inter-generational mobility** (few studies)

Chetty et al. studies on mobility includes CCs



Top 10 Colleges by Mobility Rate (Bottom to Top 20%)

| Rank | Name | Mobility Rate = | Access x | Success Rate |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| 1 | Cal State, LA | 9.9% | 33.1% | 29.9% |
| 2 | Pace University-New York | 8.4% | 15.2% | 55.6% |
| 3 | SUNY-Stony Brook | 8.4% | 16.4% | 51.2% |
| 4 | Technical Career Institutes | 8.0% | 40.3% | 19.8% |
| 5 | University of Texas—Pan American | 7.6% | 38.7% | 19.8% |
| 6 | CUNY System* | 7.2% | 28.7% | 25.2% |
| 7 | Glendale Community College | 7.1% | 32.4% | 21.9% |
| 8 | South Texas College | 6.9% | 52.4% | 13.2% |
| 9 | Cal State Polytechnic-Pomona | 6.8% | 14.9% | 45.8% |
| 10 | University of Texas—El Paso | 6.8% | 28.0% | 24.4% |

*Includes both 2- and 4-year colleges; (Chetty et al., 2017, p. 64)

Top 10 Community Colleges by Mobility Rate (Bottom to Top 20%)

| Rank | Name | Mobility Rate = | Access x | Success Rate |
|------|--|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| 1 | Glendale Community College (CA) | 7.1% | 32.4% | 21.9% |
| 2 | CUNY Borough Of Manhattan Community College (NY) | 6.1% | 35.1% | 17.5% |
| 3 | CUNY LaGuardia Community College (NY) | 6.1% | 36.8% | 16.5% |
| 4 | CUNY Bronx Community College (NY) | 5.9% | 41.0% | 14.4% |
| 5 | Southwest Texas Junior College (TX) | 5.8% | 43.0% | 13.3% |
| 6 | Queensborough Community College-CUNY (NY) | 5.5% | 27.6% | 20.1% |
| 7 | Imperial Valley College (CA) | 4.8% | 35.9% | 13.4% |
| 8 | Pasadena City College (CA) | 4.8% | 27.9% | 17.2% |
| 9 | El Paso Community College (TX) | 4.8% | 40.9% | 11.7% |
| 10 | Odessa College (TX) | 4.7% | 20.7% | 22.7% |

(Compiled from data tables supplied by Chetty et al., 2017)

Findings

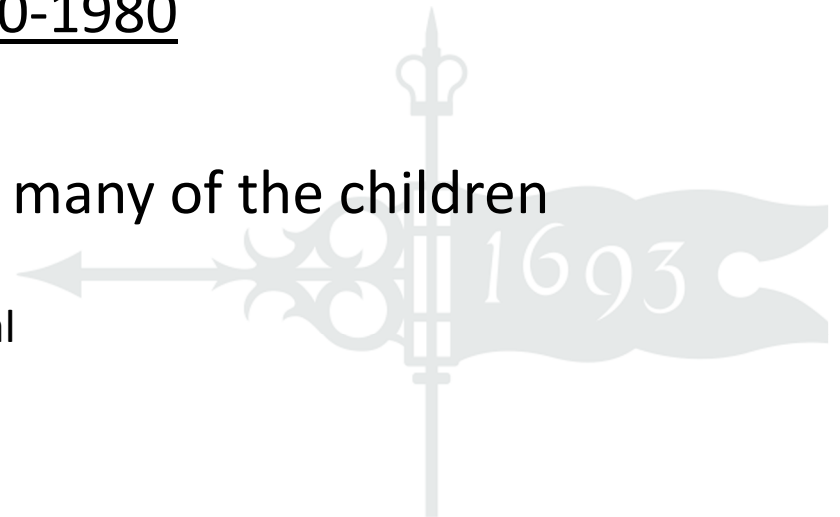
- Border states
- Hispanic/immigrant students
- Large/Urban locales
- Labor markets



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The Case of Glendale Community College (CA)

- Mobility rate= access x success (32.4% x 21.9%)= **7.1%**
- City of 200,000 with large Armenian population
40,000 Armenian immigrants in 1970-1980
- Chetty et al. baseline study includes many of the children
 - Classic assimilation model
 - External factors more important than internal



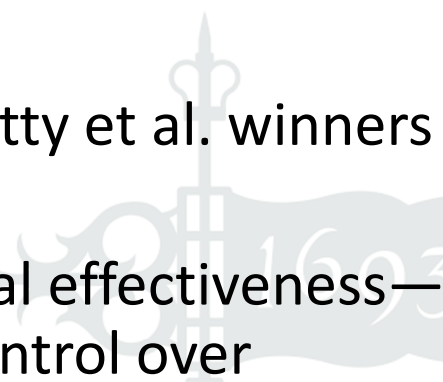
The Case of ASAP-CUNY Community Colleges

Money matters—Extra cost= \$16,300/student over 3 years

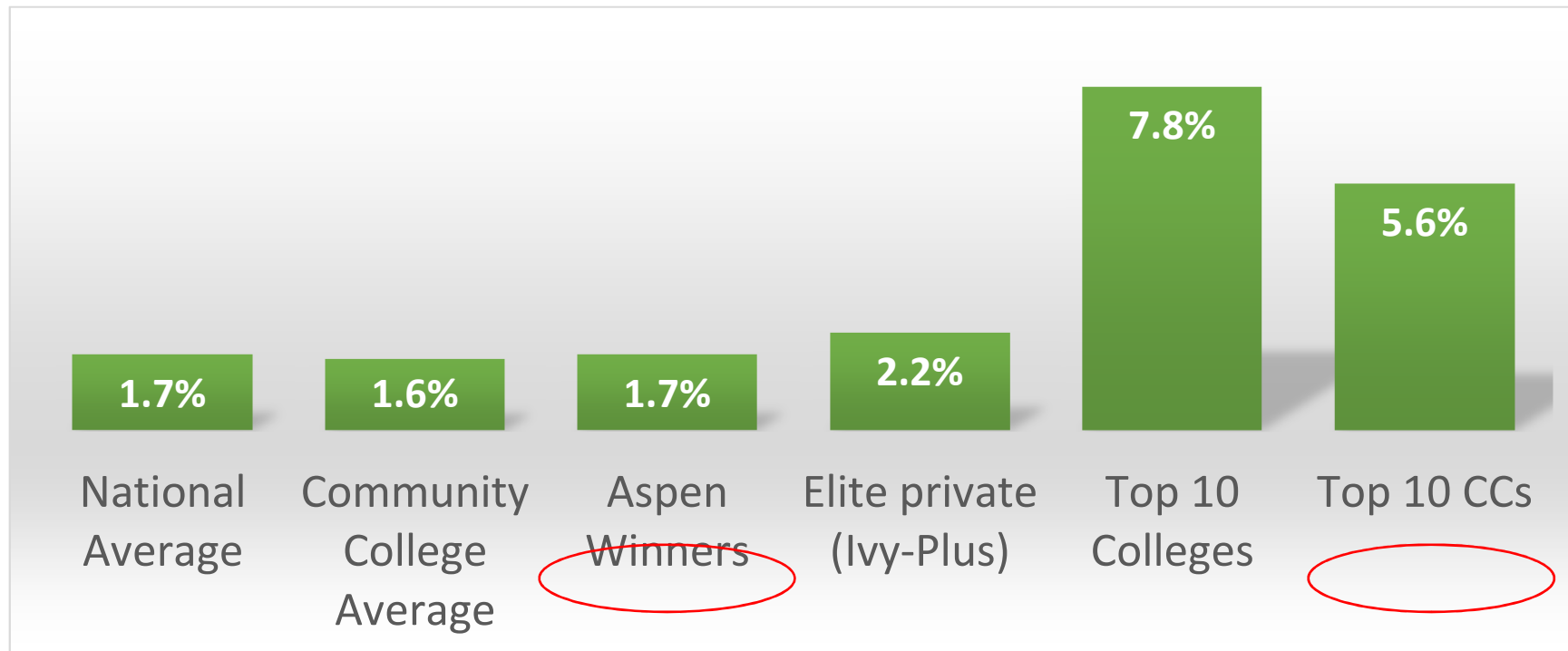
- Elements of program— full-time study, counseling and tutors, restricted program of study, free tuition & fees (last \$), metro cards and textbooks
- MDRC random control experiment:
 - 40% graduation rate for treated group vs 22% in control
 - 22% increase in credits accumulated
 - 25% transferred to 4-year vs 17% in control group

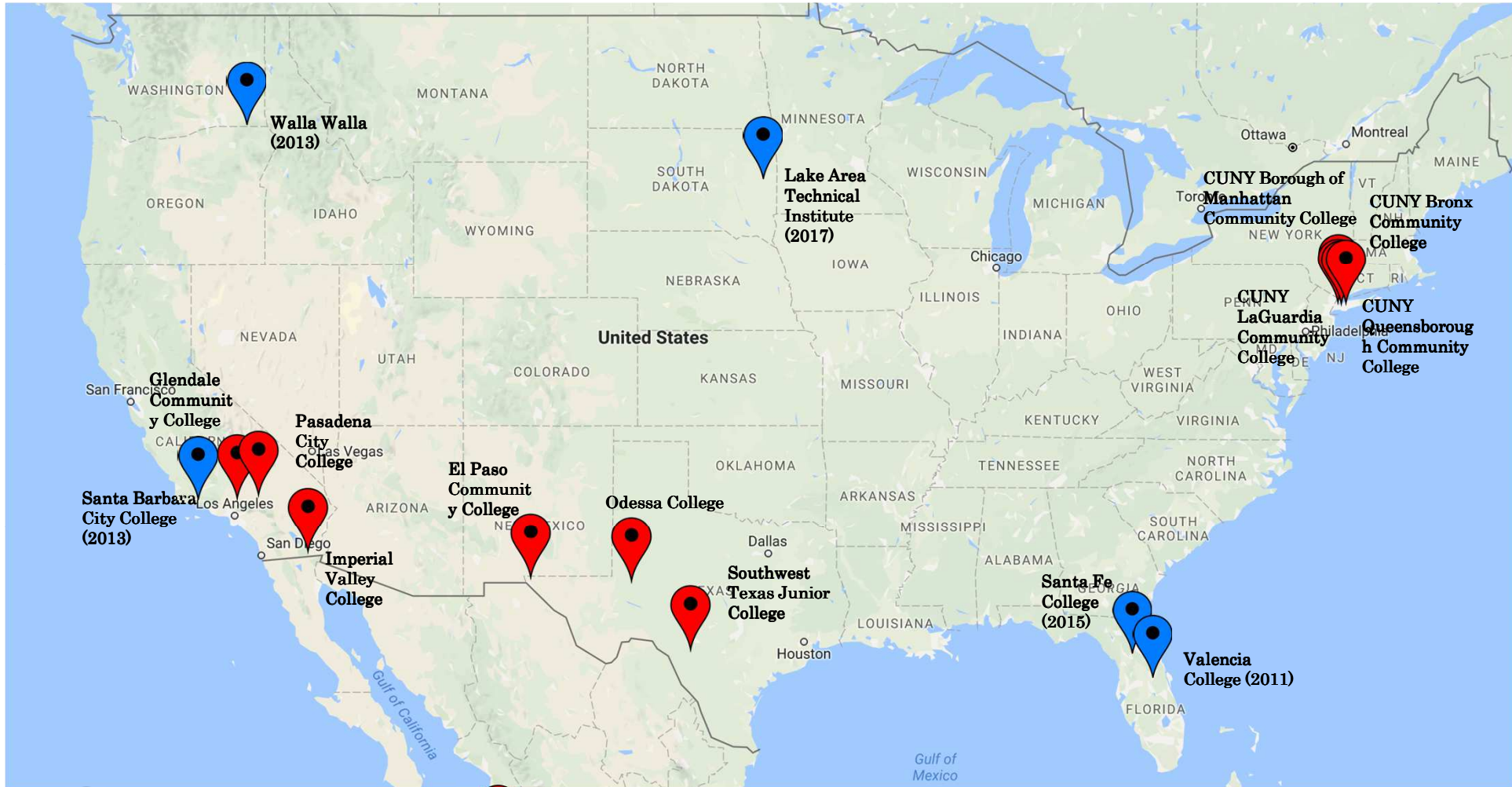



The Case of the ASPEN Prize for CC Excellence


- Million dollar prize given every other year since 2011
 - Process guided by accomplished panel, includes campus visits
 - Focus on student outcomes: retention and completion; learning; employment and earnings; equity for underserved
 - Aspen winners don't match up well with Chetty et al. winners
 - Aspen winners better measure of institutional effectiveness—
focus on factors which colleges have some control over
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Comparison of Mobility Rates





 Aspen Prize Winners

 Chetty et al. Top 10 CCs

Role of Leadership

Aspen Institute winners evidenced:

- (1) strong leadership and culture
 - (2) guided pathways to continuing education and well-paying jobs
 - (3) intentional focus on improving teaching and learning
 - (4) strategic data use to improve practice and close equity gaps
 - (5) partnerships and structures aligned to defined student outcomes (Aspen Institute, 2014, p. 10)
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Framework for Change

- Leadership, organization, and support
- Adoption and adaptation
- Networks and professional development
- Policy-focused and publically financed reform
- Technology support and technology assistance
- Targeted sharing and dissemination
- Evaluation utilization to grow impact (Bragg et al., 2014, p. 7)



Conclusions

- Chetty et al. data hold great promise of adding to our knowledge, provides a possible new measure of college excellence.....But
 - Also measures influence of external factors which the college can't control
 - Correlates with demographic and location factors
 - Aspen prize better indication of institutional effectiveness
 - Community colleges can contribute more to social mobility if they improve completion rates— money matters
 - Campus leadership matters in addressing positioning for success and addressing external factors—advocacy
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Pamela L. Eddy

pamela.eddy@wm.edu

Richard M. Romano

rmr46@cornell.edu

