

CONNECTION

EARNING POTENTIAL

By Jerone Gray

It's no secret that jobs are not plentiful in the current economic environment. It is especially challenging for students fresh out of college. It is for this reason that many colleges and universities are beginning to measure their rate at successfully placing alumni at corporate organizations.

Fayetteville State University administers the national Collegiate Learning Assessment to "select freshmen" and graduating seniors to evaluate students' critical thinking, analytical reasoning and writing skills. However, this test is compares FSU students performance in those areas to other students nationally.

FSU previously evaluated each department and used to track the job placement of the alumni but it stopped eight years ago.

In the past surveys were issued to alumni in order to gather data and connect job placement back to each department. Due to a lack of participation from the alumni, FSU stopped sending the surveys and have been unable to track which departmental graduates are actually employed in their fields of study.

According to Michaela N. Brown, Director of Alumni Affairs, programs such as Business and Economics, Nursing, and Chemistry are among the most successful programs at FSU. Unfortunately, there is no data to support the claim, yet.

However, the topic has continued to re-surface, the Office of Career Services has started reissuing surveys to FSU Alumni.

"This has become a major issue in the recent years and I believe it would help the university to keep track of this" said Dr. Ivan Walker, Director of Institutional Research.

In recent years FSU has produced some high-earning alumni. Nicholas M. Perkins graduated in 2003 from the school of Business and Economics and has become a successful business owner here in Fayetteville. He owns both Perkins Management Services Company and Church's Chicken on Yadkin Road. Recently, Perkins provided a million dollar donation to his alma mater.

"I think FSU should keep a record of their alumni's job status, to help current students pick a successful department," stated FSU Sophomore Kaira Brown.

If alumni are more willing to participate in the new surveys, they can help the university tailor educational programs and career services offered to current students.

For more information about Career Services, you can visit the Office of Career Service located in the SBE Building Suite 230 or call 910-672-1205.

Monthly Payment: \$169.08
Amount Borrowed: \$14,692.00
Interest Rate: 6.8%
Number of Monthly Payments: 120
Total Interest Cost: \$5,597.12
Total of All Payments: \$20,289.12

**Note that this calculation assumes you are part of the reported 76% of students at this school who receive financial aid and you are paying an average annual net price of \$3,673.*