



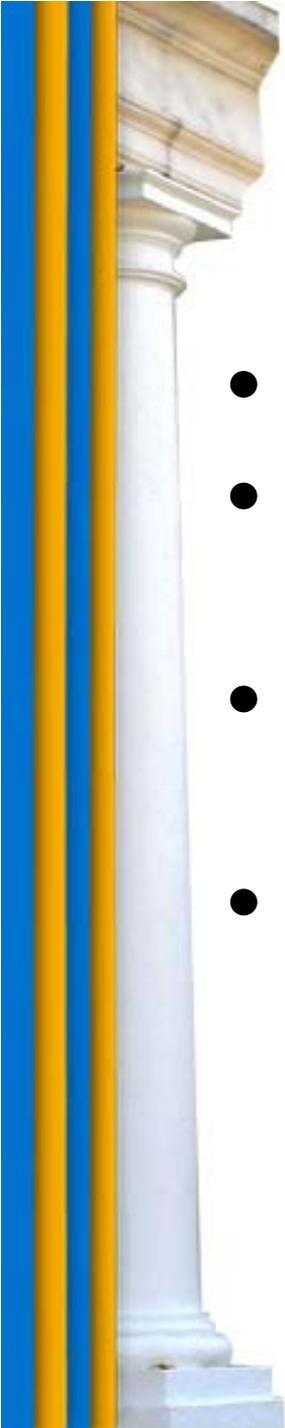
State Council of
Higher Education for Virginia

Metrics of Economic Opportunity and the Virginia Longitudinal Data System

Tod R. Massa

Policy Research and Data Warehousing Director
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

May 21, 2012



Virginia Longitudinal Data System

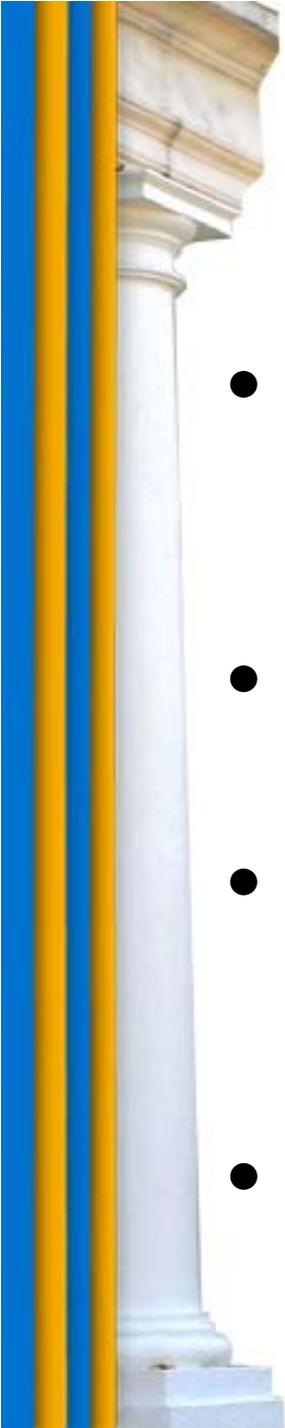
- A project funded by USED
- Creates the ability to link de-identified data across domains
- Linking is consistent with state and federal laws
- The primary goal of the project is to improve education and workforce knowledge and policy in the Commonwealth

Metrics of Economic Opportunity

- Referenced in TJ21 (HB 2510, 2011)
- [§ 23-38.87:19](#). (ix) *assessing degree programs using such economic opportunity metrics as marketplace demand, earning potential, employer satisfaction, and other indicators of the historical and projected economic value and impact of degrees to provide useful information on degrees to students as they make career choices and to state policy makers and university decision makers as they decide how to allocate scarce resources; (repeated again in [§ 23-38.87:20](#).4)*

Wage Outcomes of Graduates

- HB 639 (2012) § [23-9.2:3.04](#). *Post-graduation employment rates.*
- *By August 1, 2013, and each year thereafter, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall publish data on its website on the proportion of graduates with employment at 18 months and five years after the date of graduation for each public institution and each private nonprofit institution of higher education eligible to participate in the Tuition Assistance Grant Program. The data shall include the program and the program level, as recognized by the State Council of Higher Education, for each degree awarded by each institution and shall, at a minimum, include the percentage of graduates known to be employed in the Commonwealth, the average salary, and the average higher education-related debt for the graduates on which the data is based. The published data shall be consistent with the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act (§ [2.2-3800](#) et seq.) and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g).*



Beginning 2012, SCHEV will...

- Report on the wage outcomes of graduates, to the program level, by institution
- Include the breakdown of resident/non-resident graduates
- Include counts of those enrolled in higher level programs within Virginia institutions
- Subject to the following restrictions:

Restrictions on Disclosure

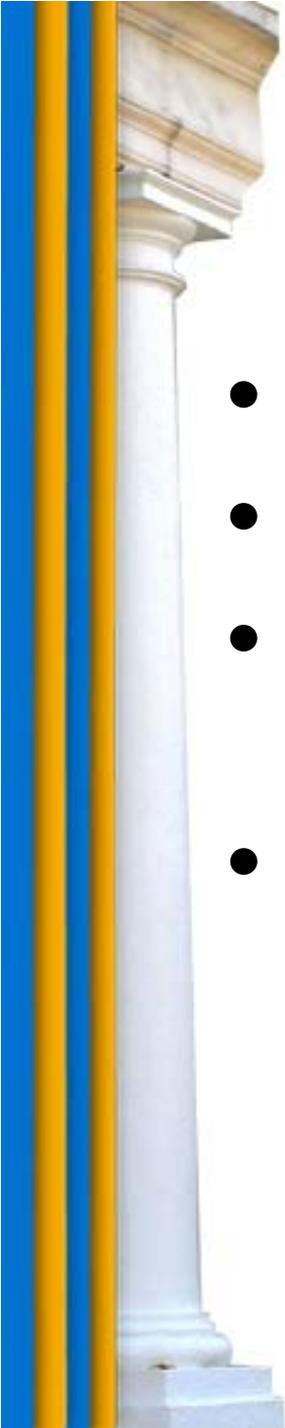
- All data will be rolled up into five-year summaries
- Wage calculations will be based on a definition of Full-Time Wage Equivalent (FTWE)
- Reported programs must:
 - Have had at least three graduates in each of the five years
 - Have at least 10 FTWE graduates counted
 - Which must represent at least 30% of the total graduates (20% if there are at least 200 FTWE)

Examples on Disclosure

- Ex. 1: A physics program producing 14 graduates over five years would be excluded.
- Ex. 2: An Environmental Studies program producing 25 graduates over five years with 14 of those graduates meeting the FTWE standard would be included

Important Notes

- There will be two websites with the data: SCHEV and College Measures
- Prior to public release, colleges will have two weeks to review the data
- SCHEV staff will conduct meetings with institutions to review the data and methodology prior to release
- We will include student debt calculations beginning 2013
- Long-term plans include reporting on earnings 10 and 15 years post-completion



Potential Research Questions

- Does Time-to-Degree impact wages?
- Does credit accumulation impact wages?
- Do student demographic or preparation factors at entry impact wages?
- Are single-focus state policy initiatives counter-productive to increased wages?