

9/12/15

Dear friends,

With the start of the 3rd NCTAP recruiting beginning on October 1st with our annual luncheon for educators, I thought I would compare the value of an NCTAP apprenticeship to the full-ride scholarships available in our state.

A list of the scholarships is found here:

<http://talk.collegeconfidential.com/financial-aid-scholarships/1461983-competitive-full-tuition-full-ride-scholarships.html>

Their value can be found by multiplying the annual in-state costs for certain school by four, the normal length of undergraduate degrees. Costs are found at Collegecalc.org

Here is what I found, ordered by value over four-years:

1. Duke University: \$247,172
2. Wake Forest University: \$240,552
3. Davidson College: \$236,584
4. UNC System: \$81,648
5. NC State University: \$77,608

Note that about 2/3rds of the tuition costs at UNC and NCSU are paid by NC taxpayers.

Note also that NCTAP partners will invest \$140,000 - \$150,000 in each apprentice over the four-year duration of an apprenticeship, making their value far greater than full-ride scholarships at UNC and NCSU.

Missing from any comparison with NCTAP is the excellent job opportunities following an apprenticeship compared to four year degrees.

We know from our friends at Apprenticeship 2000 that since their founding essentially 100% of their graduates have been hired on the spot at graduation, and many enter management positions early in their careers.

A few years ago, reports stated that 50% of all US four-year college graduates that year were either unemployed or under-employed, often in jobs completely unrelated to their degrees.

So - what is the true value of an NCTAP apprenticeship? Considering the fact that our graduates have no college costs, start earning while in high school, and have great job prospects in their fields upon conclusion, it is worth millions over their active careers. It is no wonder that in Switzerland, with some of the smartest high school students on the planet, nearly 70% of all careers start with an apprenticeship.

This is the message that schools and parents need to receive - the value of a high-end apprenticeship like NCTAP is comparable to a full-ride scholarship at the elite universities, but with real job opportunities nearly guaranteed - what college can make that promise?

regards,

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NCTAP - the degree that pays

P.S. - Out of curiosity, I looked up the tuition I paid the last year of my undergraduate engineering degree at Auburn. Tuition and fees for full-time, in-state students was \$660 per year in 1980, the year after I graduated. Adjusted for inflation, that would be \$1,911 today. The actual annual tuition + fee cost today at Auburn is \$10,424 - that is 5.4 times greater than the inflation-adjusted cost from 1980. Large football stadiums are expensive I guess...I got a terrific education in the 1970s there for not much money.