

THE BERNIE SCHOLARSHIP  
AWARDS PROGRAM

# Performance Assessment Findings

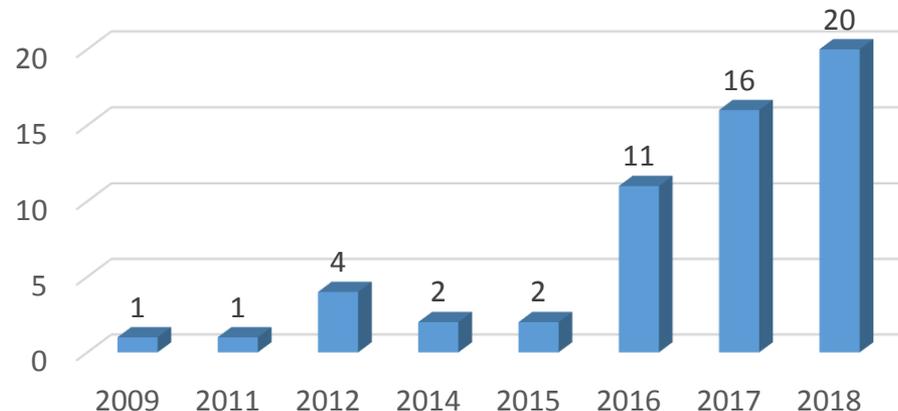
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February 2019

# Background

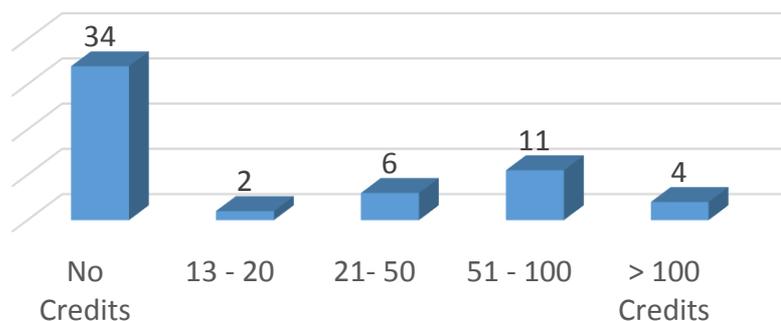
- In 2015 and 2016, Quick Study worked with a small committee of the Bernie Scholarship Board to develop a short survey in Google forms using Results-based Accountability (RBA) to frame the questions asked. This framework groups outcomes into 3 types (1) “How much” did we do; (2) “How well” did we do it; and (3) Is anyone “Better off” as result. It suggests that the most important outcomes and the best measuring stick for evaluating program performance reside in the third category, “Better off.”
- The significant outcomes of that survey were:
  - 98% of the 43 respondents had successfully completed their degree/certificate or were still in school
  - With only 12 survey respondents indicating they had completed, little could be said about “Better off” outcomes.
- The survey was administered again in 2017. Thirty-six (36) awardees responded, including 20 who had responded to the 2016 survey and 16 new respondents.
- A modified survey was administered in 2018. Fifty-seven (57) awardees responded, including 15 who had responded to the 2017 survey and 42 new respondents.
- As was true in 2017, the bulk of respondents in 2018 received their first award in the last five years. This is important to keep in mind because one would not expect robust “Better off” measures until a student has graduated and entered the workforce and/or pursued additional credentials.

## 2018 Survey Respondents

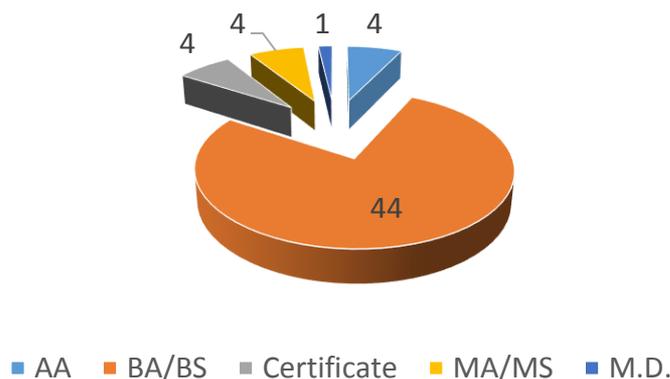


## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF 57 SURVEY RESPONDENTS FROM THE 2018 EFFECTIVENESS STUDY

1. **Gender:** 82% Female; 18% Male
2. **Age When Survey Initially Taken:** Sixty percent (60%) of respondents were between 18 and 24 years of age
3. **Race:** 91% of respondents were minorities with 68% identifying themselves as “Black/African-American”; 9% identifying as “Hispanic/Latino”; and 7% identifying as “other”
4. **College Credits Already Earned Upon Application:**



5. **Initial Educational Goal:**



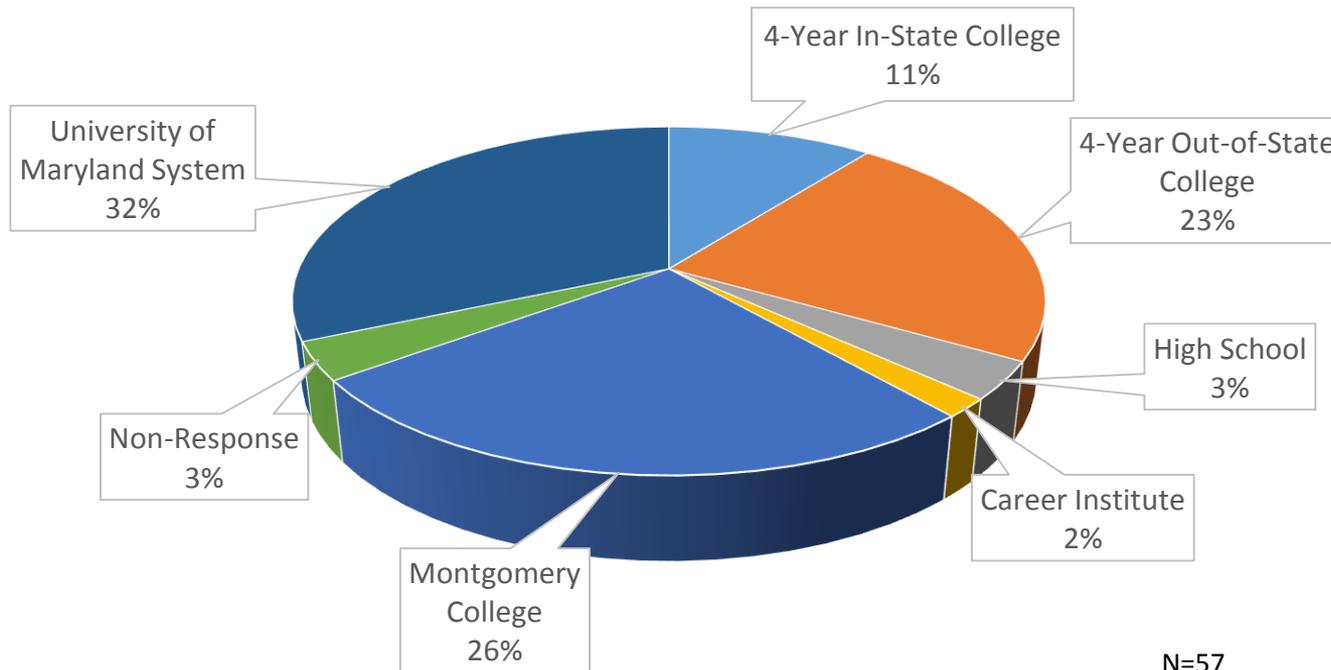
6. **Bernie Scholarship Award Impact on Enrollment:**

- Of the 57 survey participants who responded to this question, **92%** agreed or strongly agreed that the Bernie award was important in their ability to enroll in school.

# How Much?

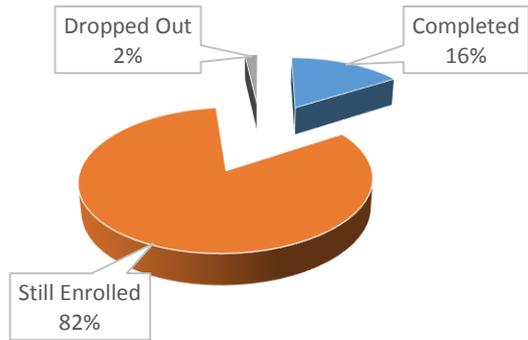
## Metrics:

- A. Total Funding Awarded to Date: **\$625,200**
- B. Total Number of Awards to Date: 524 given; 474 individual recipients (multiple awards for eligible applicants)
- C. School Where Credits Attempted in the Most Recent Award Year (from 2018 survey): 65% of respondents reported attempting credits at 4 Yr. institutions, with 32% of those attending the University of Maryland system. Of the 26% of respondents at 2 Yr. institutions, all were at Montgomery College. Additionally, 3% of the respondents attempted college-level classes while still in high school.



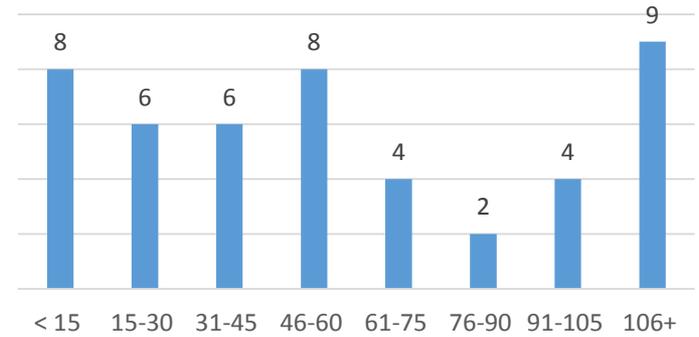
# How Well?

**A. Completion Status:** 82% report that they are still enrolled in school; 16% report that they have completed a degree program or obtained a certificate; and 2% indicate that they have dropped out.



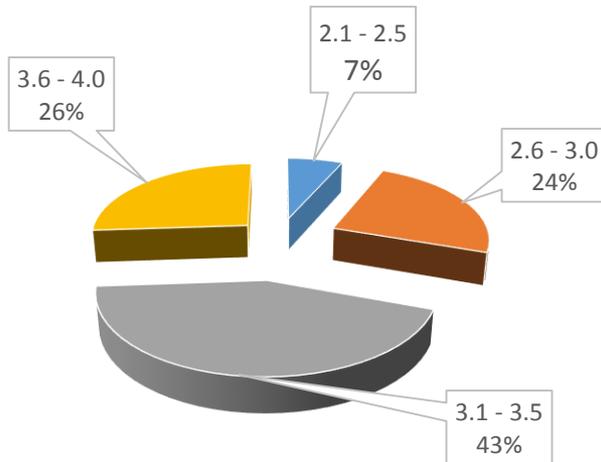
N=57

**B. Credits Completed:** As reported in the 2018 Effectiveness Study, respondents who were still enrolled in school indicated that 40% of these students had completed over half the credits necessary to obtain an undergraduate degree



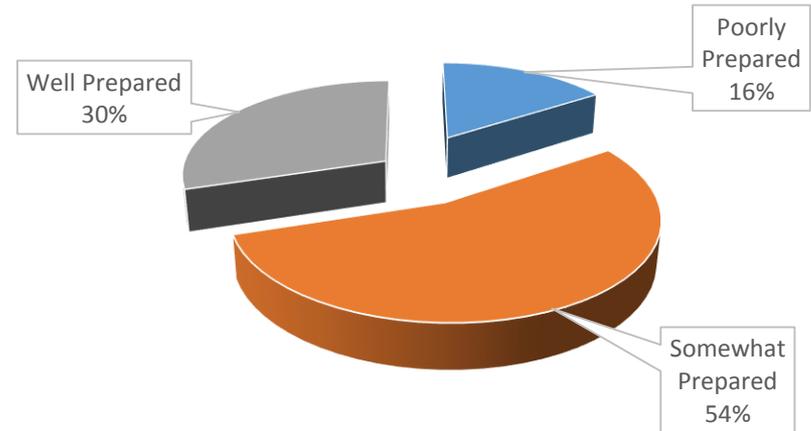
N=47

**C. GPAs of Those Still Enrolled:** 69% of respondents have a GPA of 3.1 or higher and 24% have a GPA of 2.6 – 3.0.



N=57

**D. High School Preparation as an Indicator for College Success:** 70% of the 2018 survey respondents indicated that they were poorly or somewhat prepared for the educational challenges of higher education



N=57

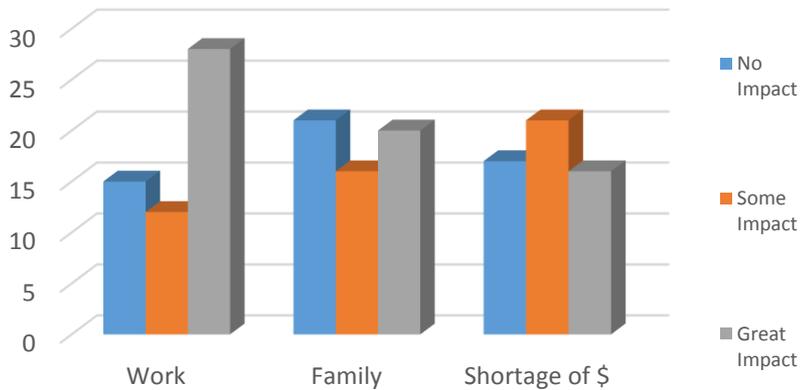
# Better Off?

- A. Employment Status:** Forty percent (40%) of the all respondents reported being employed for wages; 49% reported being a student not current employed; and 11% reported being out of work and looking for work.
- B. Enrolled/Student Respondents:** Of the 47 respondents still enrolled in post-secondary education, 26 were not employed; 10 were employed part-time; 7 employed full-time; and 4 were out of work and seeking employment.
- C. Respondents who Completed Degree/Certificate:** Of the 9 respondents who completed a degree or certificate program, 2 are pursuing an additional degree and are not currently employed; 2 are employed part-time; 3 are employed full-time; and 2 are out of work and looking for employment.
- D. Respondents who Dropped Out Prior to Completing a Degree or Certificate Program:** The one (1) respondent reported working full-time, making less than \$24K.
- E. Annual Income:** Of the 10 respondents who are enrolled in school and employed, only two (2) make more than \$24K; of the 9 respondents who completed a degree or certificate program, 3 report making under \$24K and 2 report making over \$34K.

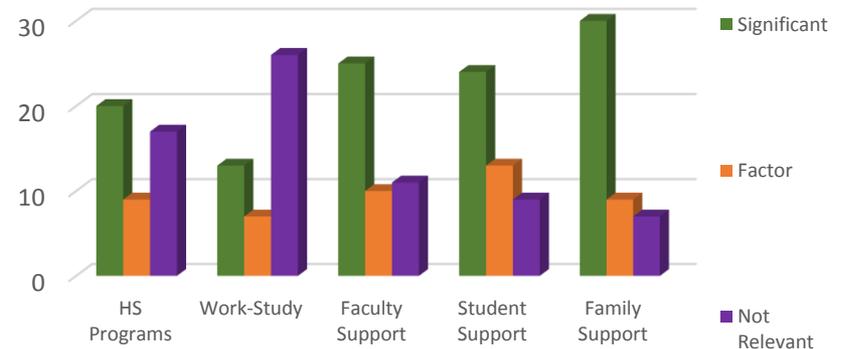
# Support and Success Factors

**A. Support Factors:** In the 2018 Effectiveness Survey, attitudinal questions were asked as to the impact of various factors on respondents' ability to perform in school. Questions were also asked as to factors that contributed to their success in achieving their goals.

### Impact on Ability to Perform



### Success Factors



# Subjective Feedback

The survey asks several open-ended subjective questions designed to solicit feedback on program design and delivery. They include a question asking what the program can do to improve outcomes for scholarship recipients and another asking if there is anything else the respondent wishes to report. Over half of the 57 respondents answered at least one of these questions. Their advice may be summarized as follows:

- While most who responded are grateful for the scholarship awards and believe that the program successfully answers its mission, several request additional support
  - Financially
    - Increased awards
    - Monies for school supplies
    - Follow-up with educational institutions regarding awards
  - Mentoring (the organization is now mentoring its awardees)
  - Identifying work sources and other scholarship opportunities
  - Outreach to high schools to highlight benefits of program
  - Networking opportunities
- Some suggestions for improving the program include:
  - Make sure students receive their scholarship funds and that they are received on time
  - Provide better communication and improve response time
  - Make sure that students know that they can apply for a scholarship for post-graduate studies
  - Improve application process; allow anyone who has applied before and received a scholarship to be automatically considered for an additional award
  - Monies be sent directly to awardee to assist in management of smaller expenses

# Summary

The 2018 Effectiveness Study had a **36%** increased response rate over the 2017 Effectiveness Study.

Twenty (20) of the respondents were new awardees and it will be a goal to keep the lines of communication open by creating an Effectiveness Study designed to track the progress toward stated outcomes for this group of recipients.

Twenty-five (25) of the respondents have received two or more awards; half of these awardees received back-to-back awards (in 2017 and 2018). Additionally, twenty-three (23) of the respondents have applied for a 2019 Bernie Scholarship Award. Our challenge will be to measure the effectiveness of multiple awards on education completion rates and increased standards of living.

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the respondents are still enrolled in school or have completed a degree or certificate program.