

A wide-angle photograph of a large, historic stone building, likely a university hall or college, featuring a crenellated roof and numerous windows. The building is surrounded by a well-maintained green lawn. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**College costs,  
but does it pay?  
-Dyllan Usher**

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions
- Future Work



# Introduction

**GOAL:** Analyze the median income of college graduates ten years after obtaining their bachelor's degree.

- ▶ **Predict** median income per college.
- ▶ Find the **most influential** factors that lead to student financial success.
- ▶ **Inform** policy makers to help combat income inequality.



# Methodology



Possible Sources of Income Inequality post Graduation



# Methodology

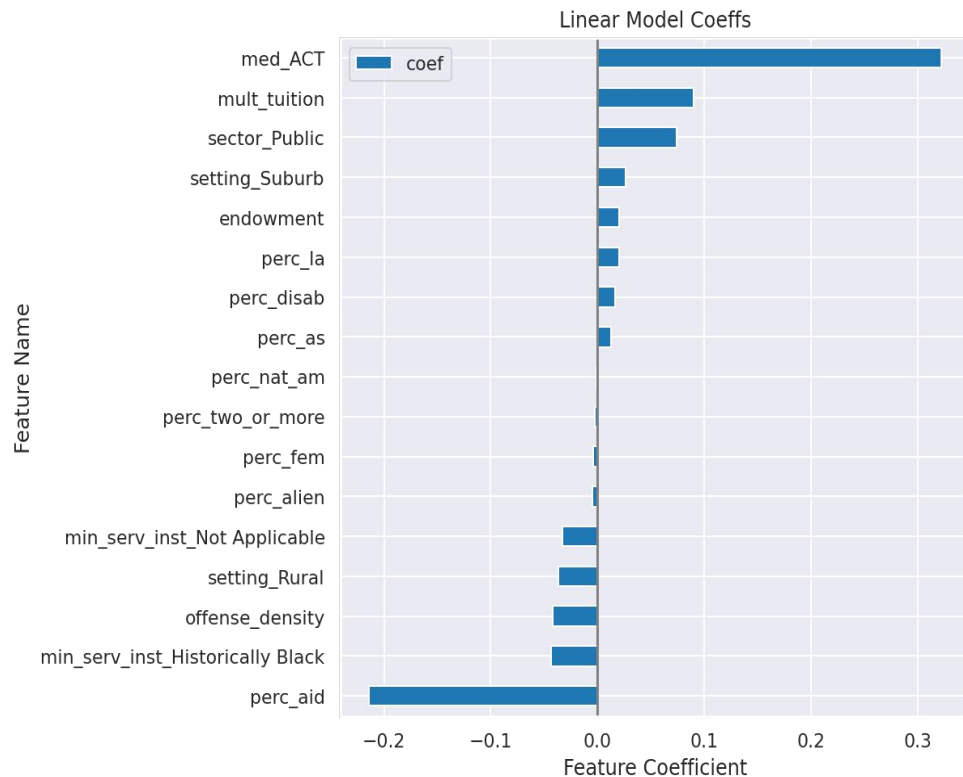
**Data:** Data was scraped from the following sources to analyze college data.

- ▶ College Results (1)
- ▶ NCES College Navigator (2)



# Results

## Predict Income: An analysis of over 1000 colleges

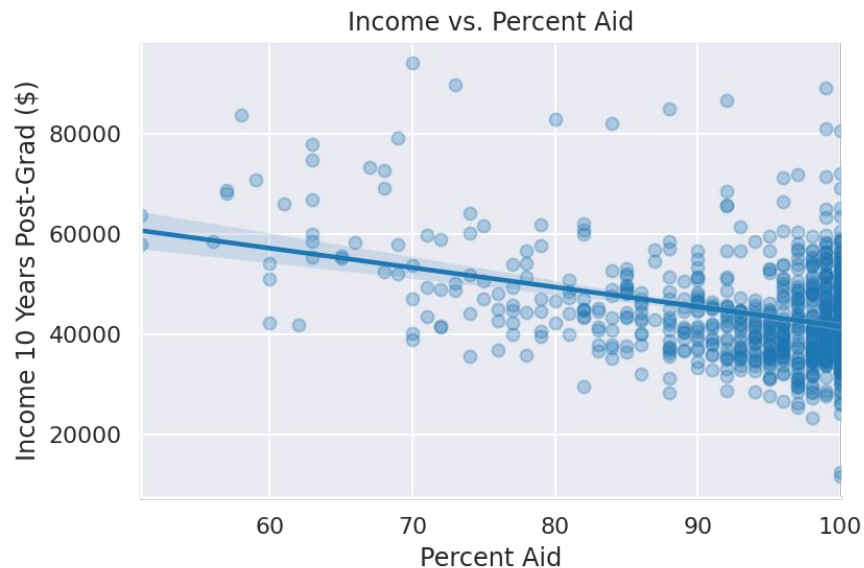


- ▶ Lasso Regularization for feature importance
- ▶ Regular Linear Model on extracted features
  - ▶  $R^2 = .62$
  - ▶ RMSE = \$5400



# Results

## The Most Impactful Correlations



# LASSO Path

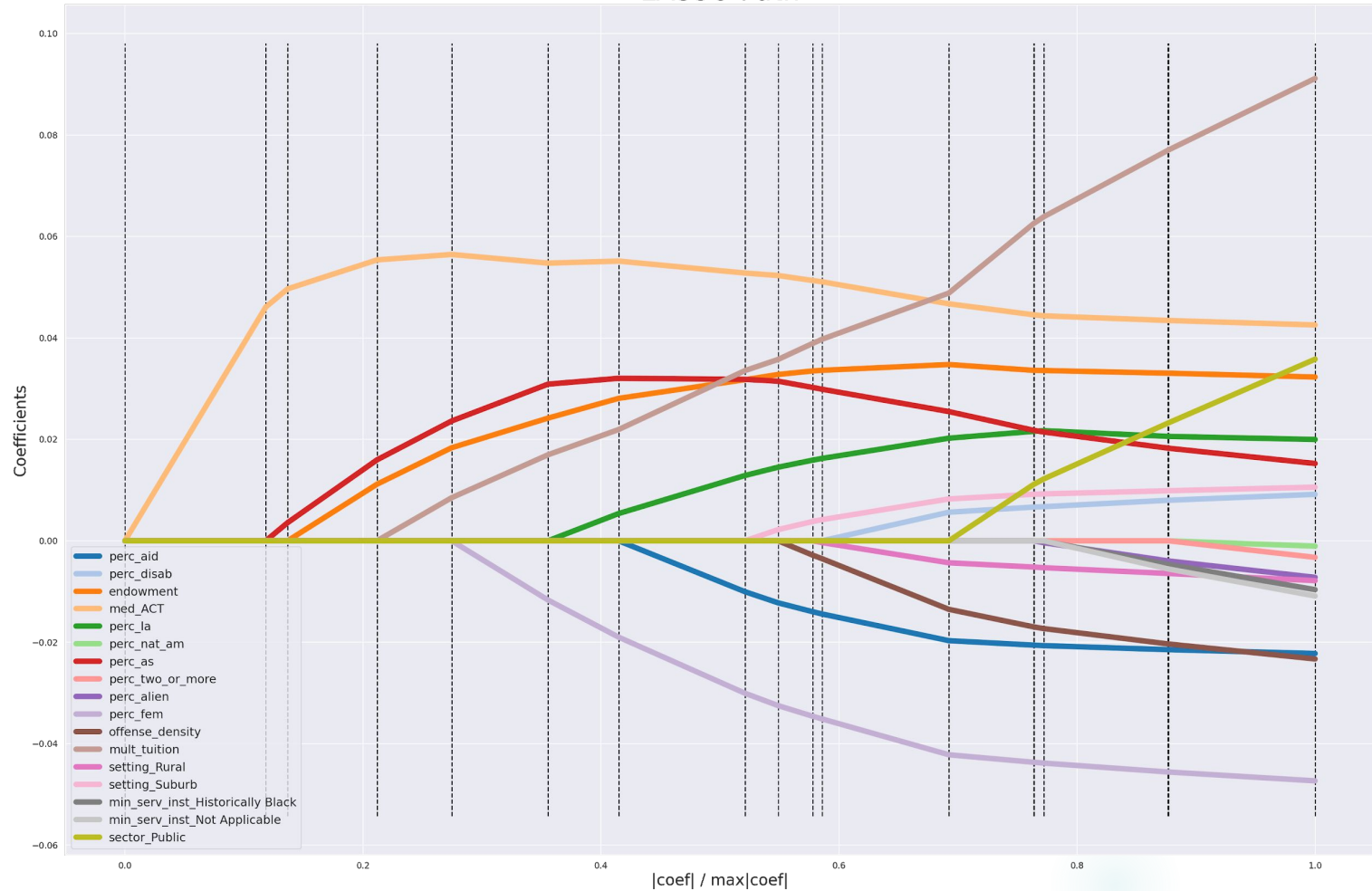
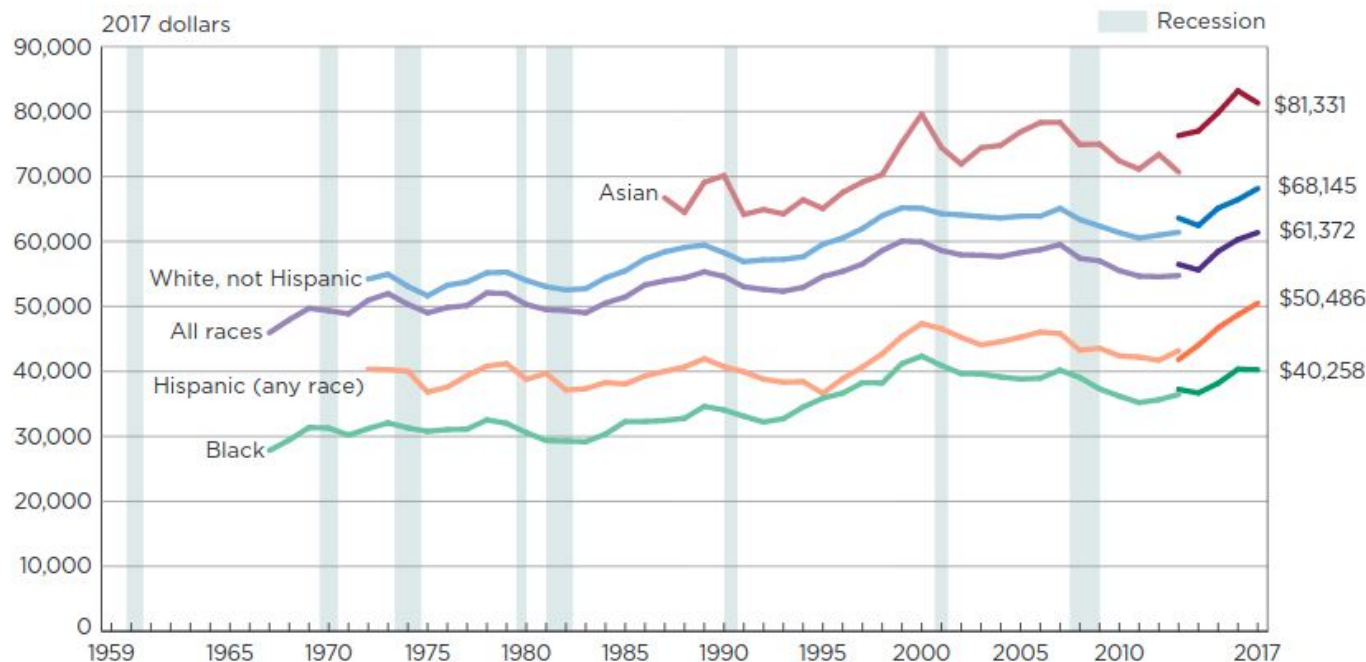




Figure 1.  
Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1967 to 2017



Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. Median household income data are not available prior to 1967. For information on recessions, see Appendix A. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar18.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar18.pdf).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1968 to 2018 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.



# Conclusions

1. **Most Influential Factors:**
  - a. **ACT, Endowment, Tuition**
  - b. **Percent Female, Aid, On Campus Crime**



# Conclusions

1. **Most Influential Factors:**
  - a. **ACT, Endowment, Tuition**
  - b. **Percent Female, Aid, On Campus Crime**
2. **Policy Recommendations:**
  - a. **Increase ACT prep course funding**
  - b. **Increase funding into universities**
  - c. **Give more funding to Equality Now, etc.**
  - d. **Provide rehabilitation for campus offenders**



# Future Work

1. Add more parameters to broaden scope of analysis
  - a. Demographics around colleges, major specific data
2. Try more complex regression model to enhance predictive power
  - a. Random forest regression, Convolution neural networks, etc



# Appendix

1. (2019). [College Results Data]. <http://www.collegeresults.org/>
2. (2019). [NCES College Navigator]. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>



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# ANY QUESTIONS?

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