TBT School Catalog Report Generator

Problem:

The major purpose of the project was to create a process and program that would allow someone who is searching for a place to pursue secondary education and narrow down their options. This is done using only empirical information regarding the university from the government run system, IPEDS. The system was able to produce information regarding around 6000 schools, but we discarded any observations that we could not get a price estimate for, narrowing our recommendations down to only around 1800 schools.

Process:

The initial iteration of the process uses a google form to simulate the front end that would be created for *The True Blue Times* website. It asked three simple questions. What state(s) were you considering going to school, Did you take the ACT and/or SAT, and Are you planning on participating in one of the following collegiate sports? The states would be used to narrow down how many observations would be pulled from the whole dataset, while the question regarding tests and sports would add more information about each school. The test question, if answered yes, adds test scores from the ACT and SAT ranging from the 25th to 75th percentile for English and math, as well as the verbal score for the SAT and composite score for the ACT. The sport question will tell the user if that school is a member of the NCAA or NAIA for their selected sport. The program will then use the IPEDS data to generate a csv file with the schools from selected states with the additional relevant information. This would also be a page generated on the *The True Blue Times* website if the project was pursued as stated in the initial pitch.

Conclusion:

The product as presented needs further refinement. Much of the output still needs to be edited for increased interpretability for the end user, the creation of an actual front end would greatly benefit the usability of the product, and the overall project does lack a lot of power without being paired with the articles that would be in the catalog. As a proof of concept though, it greatly narrows down looking at schools in the U.S. as a whole, while potentially finding user's a greater variety of options in their local area. If the refinements are implemented this project will be a powerful tool for its users and a benefit to what *The True Blue Times* is trying to acomplish.