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# Value of college degree diminishing

**Employment:** Experts say jobs in one's field of study are scarce

**Ben Moebius**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

As the cost of a college education continues to rise across the nation, some labor experts are saying the value of that education may be falling.

"America's Best Colleges," an article that was published in the Sept. 26, 1994 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, began on an ominous note.

Citing numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the article reported that, "almost 30 percent of the 11.1 million students who received diplomas in 1993 were either unemployed (6.1 percent) or working in jobs not requiring a college degree (23 percent)."

Brad Angle, a labor economist for the Oregon Employment Division, said, in the short term, occupations requiring a college education are not growing as fast as the number of people graduating with degrees.

"However, more and more employers are requiring that their workers have college degrees," Angle said. "It's kind

of a catch-22.

"If you don't have at least a four-year degree you will be working in a low-wage job," he said. "But the fact that you do have one is not the guarantee it once was."

"The first few jobs you have after college may not require that degree," Angle said.

Some of the fastest growing industries in the job market in the 1990s will seek out people with advanced degrees, Angle said. "The field of education will become more competitive," he said. "A job may not require a master's degree, but having one will place you higher on the list of possibilities."

Angle said in monetary terms, it is easy to see that a college education pays off.

Census Bureau statistics show that estimated lifetime earnings for a high school graduate are \$820,000, while those for a person with a bachelor's degree rise to \$1.4 million. The estimated lifetime earnings for a person with a professional degree are \$3.01 million, according to Angle.

The benefits of a bachelor's degree compared to an advanced degree will fall, he said. But the benefits of a bache-

lor's degree compared to a high school education will increase.

"The gap will increase between both high school to a bachelor's degree and a bachelor's degree to an advanced degree," he said. "But overall, the true economic benefits of a college education have decreased over time."

Rick Mowday, a University management professor, said a college education is worth just as much as it always was, but that competition in the marketplace among college-educated graduates is rising.

"It is much more competitive for an MBA to get into the business these days," Mowday said. "Business students are going to school longer and internships are becoming much more important."

"Those stories of the CEO who started in the mail room, you won't be hearing those in the next 10 years," he said.

A variety of factors have affected the market for business majors, according to Mowday. Many middle-management positions have been eliminated from the marketplace because of corporate downsizing in the 1980s, he said.

Also, management positions

are becoming increasingly complicated, requiring extensive technological knowledge, which Mowday said, requires students to attend school longer.

Mark Reed, head of the geological sciences department, said it is probably harder for geology students to find jobs also.

"Most geology graduates used to go into mining- and petroleum-related jobs, or academia," he said. "Now a fair number of grads go into environmental consulting and clean up."

Merv Loya, assistant dean of the law school, said that increased competition has tightened up the jobs market. "The market was better 20 years ago," he said. "But law students here are still finding jobs."

Loya said the Labor Bureau statistics do not reflect the trend at the law school. A survey of the class of 1993, according to Loya, showed that 80 percent of the students polled were now employed. About 95 percent of that class was polled and 9 out of 10 of those positions were full time.

"So, even though the market is more competitive, we have done pretty well," he said.

## DIRECTOR

Continued from Page 1

lenge is not just to maintain it, but to find the ways and means to be creative and to have the energy and enthusiasm to make sure the University of Oregon has a topnotch program for many years to come."

Moos began his athletics career in 1982 as assistant athletic director at Washington State and also served as the school's associate director from 1988-90.

His work at Montana has been in overseeing a work force of 65 administrators, coaches and staff. The Grizzlies offer 14 sports — six for men and eight for women — in the Big Sky Conference and, during Moos' tenure, have won or shared 10 league titles and participated in 11 NCAA tournaments or playoffs.

With his guidance, the program has cre-

ated an academic support program, developed a facility enhancement plan that created more than \$4 million in improvements and lifted the school's fund-raising efforts to show a 300 percent increase in private and corporate gifts.

It is with this resume that Moos feels confident in saying that his background and expertise in athletics has been primarily in fund raising and marketing.

"Bill Moos brings a unique combination of experience and skills," Williams said. "He knows what it takes to be an athletic director in a major program, he's familiar with the conference and its institutions and has an impressive record of success in many areas including fund raising and enhancing the quality of women's athletic programs."

Beyond Moos' administrative capabilities, he is also well aware of what it is like to

compete in the elite West coast conference as an athlete. He earned all-conference offensive tackle honors as a three-year letterman at Washington State.

As an initial observation, Moos said he would like the Oregon athletic program to not only be prominent in the Eugene/Springfield area, but in the entire Oregon region — especially Portland.

"We can't just have a presence in Portland, we need to own it," he said. "Portland is going to be Duck country through and through — if it isn't already — and so are all the other communities in the state."

Oregon's AD history began with Leo Harris from 1948-67 and followed with Len Casanova (1967-70), Norv Ritchey (1971-76), John Caine (1976-81), Rick Bay (1981-84), Bill Byrne (1984-92), Brooks (1992-94) and Williams (1994-95).

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