Today’s college seniors embrace diversity and are eager to share their voice with their community. Whether it’s graduate school or employment opportunities, the Class of 2015 is ready to take the next step.

Seniors are looking forward towards their careers...

- 66% | 53% Participated in an internship program
- 34% | 34% Spent 3+ hours per week on career planning
- 57% | 50% Were satisfied with career resources
- 76% | 77% Believed coursework was relevant to their future career

...Though financial pressures may influence their plans.

- 27% | 31% Missed class due to employment
- 35% | 60% Worked 6+ hours per week off campus
- 31% | 42% Helped support their family financially
- 37% | 33% Received over $10,000 in loans their senior year
- 76% | 84% Chose their particular career to help pay off debt

Research programs provide a chance to enhance knowledge and networks...

- 36% | 32% Strongly agree that their college improved their research abilities
- 41% | 40% Worked on a professor’s research project
- 26% | 16% Participated in an undergraduate research program

The college experience promotes diversity...

- 54% | 69% Took an ethnic studies class
- 37% | 35% Attended a racial/cultural awareness workshop
- 40% | 33% Had meaningful discussions about race outside of class
- 51% | 53% Feel it’s very important to promote racial understanding

...And are associated with the likelihood of pursuing graduate school opportunities.

- 38% | 33% Of research program participants plan to attend graduate school in the fall
- 21% | 17% Of students who did not participate in a research program plan to attend graduate school in the fall

...And helps transform students into engaged citizens.

- 58% | 48% Challenged a professor’s ideas in class
- 24% | 17% Demonstrated for a cause
- 79% | 87% Of registered students voted in an election
- 66% | 49% Are interested in seeking information about social and political issues

The College Senior Survey (CSS) connects academic, civic, and diversity outcomes with comprehensive set of college experiences to measure the impact of college. When used as a follow-up tool to other CIRP surveys, such as the Freshman Survey (TFS) or the Your First College Year (YFCY) Survey, the CSS generates valuable longitudinal data on students’ cognitive and affective growth as they graduate from college.

Survey Source: CIRP College Senior Survey 2015

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