

Indiana Humanities Community Conversation

Johnson County
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David Dresslar
The Center of Excellence in Leadership of
Learning
University of Indianapolis

A personal history of one teacher's educational journey

- In 1969, a rather shaky “Mr. Dresslar” addresses his first Greenwood High School class- he has a course title, text books and a class list but no curriculum, no standards, no state assessments, no accountability and the principal's wish of, “good luck with the kids” (you'll need it)!
- Message to students: “Make good grades, get a high school diploma, get a good job and join the middle class.”

And then, with a brand-new job

- In 1996, more shakiness is noted as now “Dr. Dresslar” assumes leadership of a Michigan school district. He has a curriculum “scope and sequence” but no state standards, a state test without alignment, objective-based learning, generalized accountability for success and a wish from the school board of, “good luck with the teachers” (you’ll need it)!
- Message to students: “Get good grades, get a high school diploma, go to college, get a 4 year degree, get a good job and join the middle class.”

Fast forward to today

- In 2015, just “Dave” helps schools adjust to state mandated “college and career ready” standards, prescribed curricula, multi-million dollar state tests, accountability “letter grades” for schools and districts, teacher compensation based in part on student performance and a wish to educators, “good luck with the politicians in the statehouse” (you’ll need it).
- Message to students: “A quality high school diploma is just a start, get a post-secondary credential or degree that will lead to a good career but don’t mortgage your future with a mountain of debt”

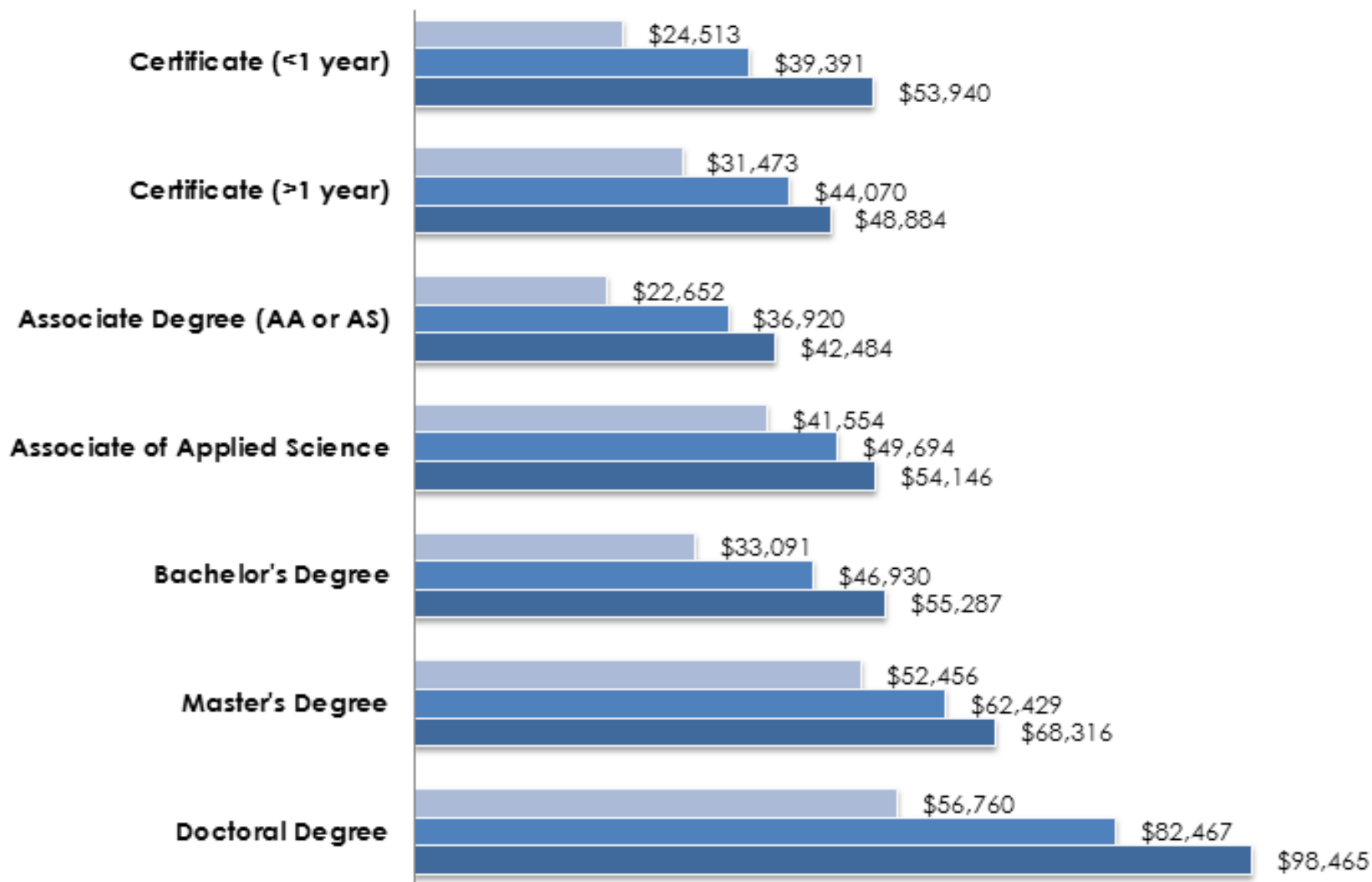
Educational Preparation

Quality diplomas, certificates, internships, apprenticeships, Associate in science degree (A.S.) / associate in arts degree (A.A.), Associate in applied science degree (A.A.S.), bachelor's degrees, advanced degrees, badges and other credentials.

(hint: it's not what college/school you attend but it's your major/program you enroll in and it's not just what you know but it's also what you can do)

Median Earnings by Credential Level

■ 1st Year Median Earnings ■ 5th Year Median Earnings ■ 10th Year Median Earnings



Employability (21st Century) Skills

What are employers looking for in employees who are prepared for multiple careers?

(hint: it's not at all what colleges think they are)

1. Strong Work Ethic

Are you motivated and dedicated to getting the job done, no matter what? Will you be conscientious and do your best work?

2. Positive Attitude

Are you optimistic and upbeat? Will you generate good energy and good will?

3. Good Communication Skills

Are you both verbally articulate and a good listener? Can you make your case and express your needs in a way that builds bridges with colleagues, customers and vendors?

4. Time Management Abilities

Do you know how to prioritize tasks and work on a number of different projects at once? Will you use your time on the job wisely?

5. Problem-Solving Skills

Are you resourceful and able to creatively solve problems that will inevitably arise? Will you take ownership of problems or leave them for someone else?

6. Acting as a Team Player

Will you work well in groups and teams? Will you be cooperative and take a leadership role when appropriate?

7. Self-Confidence

Do you truly believe you can do the job? Will you project a sense of calm and inspire confidence in others? Will you have the courage to ask questions that need to be asked and to freely contribute your ideas?

8. Ability to Accept and Learn From Criticism

Will you be able to handle criticism? Are you coachable and open to learning and growing as a person and as a professional?

9. Flexibility/Adaptability

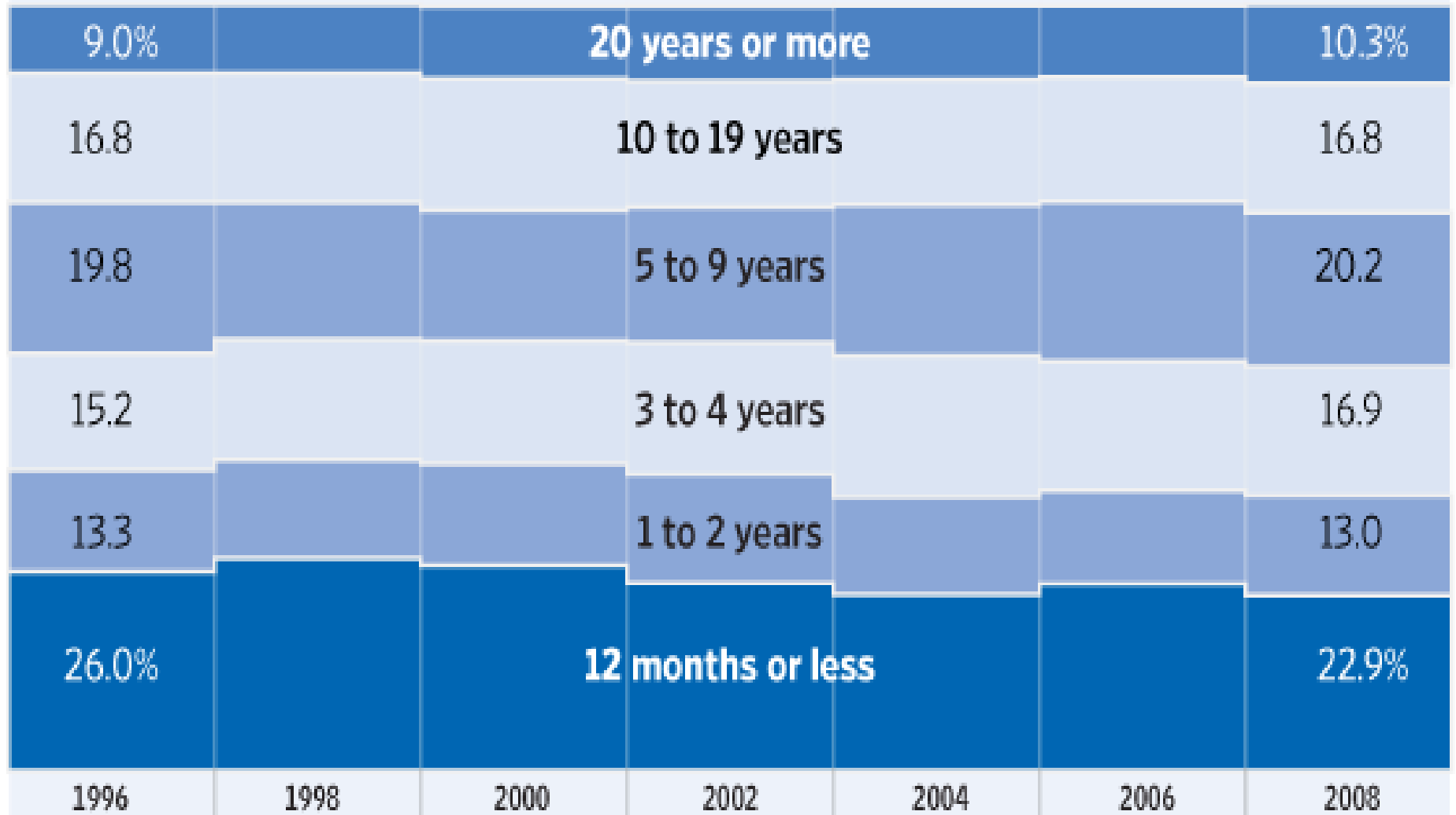
Are you able to adapt to new situations and challenges? Will you embrace change and be open to new ideas?

10. Working Well Under Pressure

Can you handle the stress that accompanies deadlines and crises? Will you be able to do your best work and come through in a pinch?

Steady Job

The amount of time U.S. adults have spent with the same employer hasn't changed much in recent years.



Source: Labor Department

Career Knowledge

What are the careers that promise both a satisfying experience for you and a good wage as well?

(hint: pick a meta-major, consider your high school preparation, calculate your financial resources, determine your goal, find the appropriate career field & choose your post-secondary education)

Good jobs requiring a certificate



Certificates required

Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants

Automotive service technicians and mechanics

Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses

Hairdressers, hairstylists and cosmetologist

Preschool teachers, except special education

Insurance sales agents

Welders, cutters, solderers and brazers

Real estate sales agents

Heating, air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics

Bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists

Certificates continued

Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors

Emergency medical technicians and paramedics

Telecommunications equipment installers and repairers

Computer, automated teller and office machine repairers

Massage therapists

Aircraft mechanics and service technicians

Library technicians

Architectural and civil drafters

Travel agents

Medical transcriptionists

Good jobs requiring an associate's degree



Associate's degree required

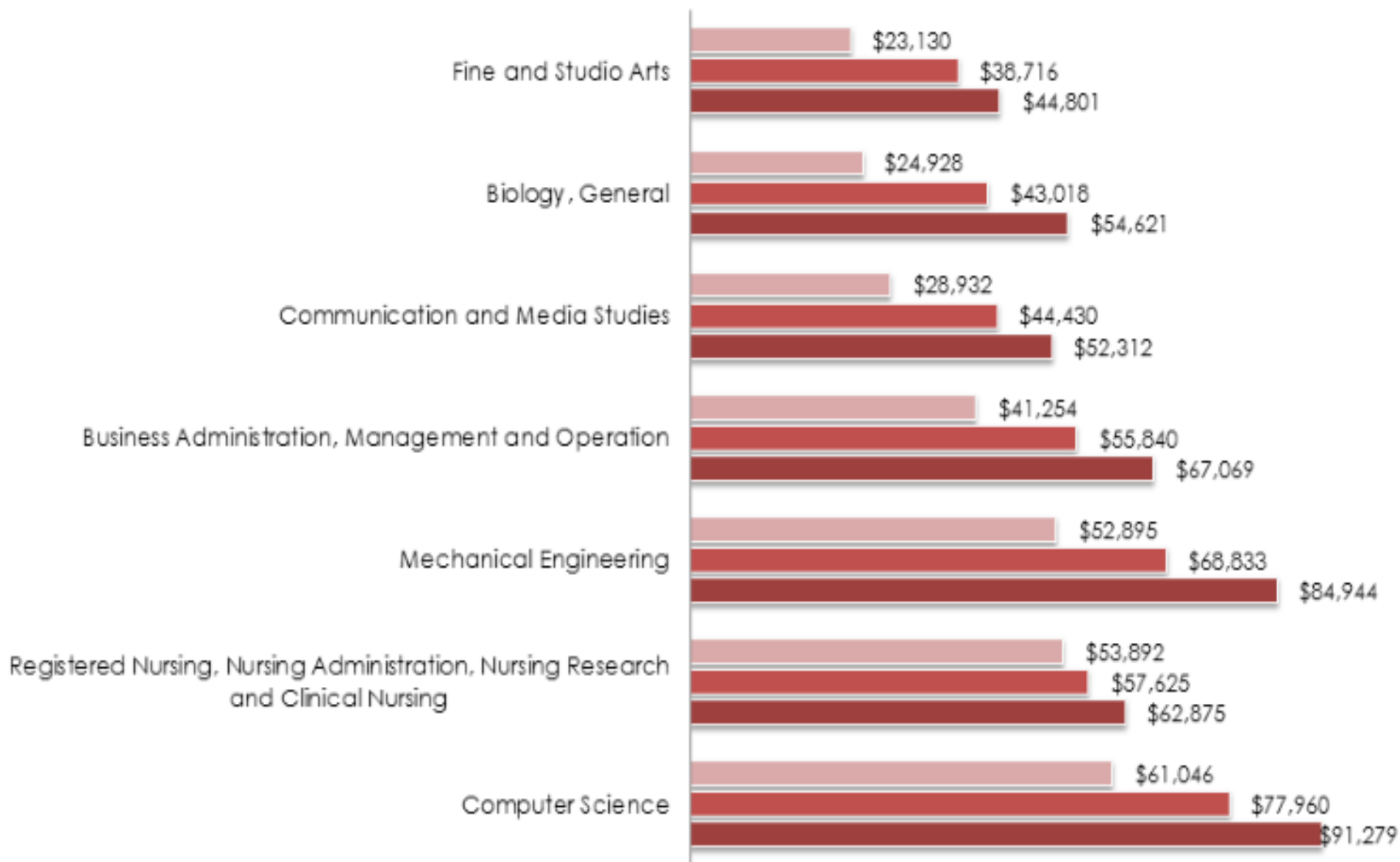
1. Claims adjuster
2. Web developer
3. MRI technologist
4. Funeral service manager
5. Dental Hygienist
6. Air Traffic Controller
7. Computer Programmer
8. HVAC Mechanic
9. Paralegal
10. Computer Network Support Specialist

Jobs requiring a bachelor's degree



Median Earnings by Major (Bachelor's Degree)

■ 1st Year ■ 5th Year ■ 10th Year



David Dresslar
ddresslar@uindy.edu

