Purdue-Gallup Index

Key Points
Responding to the call for increased accountability among higher education institutions, Gallup and Purdue University focused their research efforts on outcomes that provide insight into the common and essential aspirations for college graduates, no matter what type of institution they attend. Together, Gallup and Purdue created an index that examines the long-term success of graduates as they pursue a good job and a better life. This index provides insight into the relationship between the college experience and whether college graduates have great jobs and great lives.

Well-Being
Well-being is about more than being happy or wealthy. Feeling fulfilled in life includes positive interactions at work on a daily basis, meaningful social relationships, financial security, physical health, and community involvement. As a result, Gallup and Healthways partnered to develop a metric measuring well-being that includes five elements: Purpose, Social, Financial, Community, and Physical well-being. Gallup categorizes a person’s well-being as “thriving,” “struggling,” or “suffering” for each element based on their response. A person who is thriving is strong, consistent, and progressing in that element. Results demonstrate that Purdue alumni are thriving at higher rates than alumni from public colleges and all colleges combined. For example, 57% of Purdue alumni are thriving in the Purpose element of well-being compared to only 48% of other college respondents.

Employees who are engaged at work exhibit intellectual and emotional connections with their organization. More than job satisfaction, a person who is engaged is able to do what they’re best at, they like what they do at work, and feel that someone at work cares about their development. Gallup’s engagement index categorizes workplace engagement as “engaged,” “not engaged,” and “actively disengaged.” Engaged employees are involved, loyal, and enthusiastic about their work. Results demonstrate that 44% of Purdue alumni who are employed full-time are engaged with their work, compared to 38% of all college graduates from public universities nationally.

Great Jobs, Great Lives
Purdue alumni are more likely than all public college graduates to be employed full-time for an employer (79% vs. 67%).

About 39% of Purdue alumni strongly agreed that the university prepared them well for life outside college which is far above the national average for all college graduates (25%).

To view the full report visit: http://www.gallup.com/strategicconsulting/168791/gallup-purdue-index-inaugural-national-report.aspx
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Alumni Attachment

Students spend a significant amount of resources preparing for life outside college. Do students believe this investment has contributed to a well-lived life? Gallup's alumni attachment index measures graduates' emotional attachment to their alma mater. Included in the index is whether alumni perceive college was a great fit for them, can imagine a world without their alma mater, and feeling their college prepared them for life beyond their education.

Nearly one in five college graduates nationally (18%) are emotionally attached to their alma mater, and approximately the same amount (17%) of all public college graduates are emotionally attached to their alma mater.

Emotional attachment is much higher among Purdue alumni - nearly a third (30%) are attached to Purdue.

Student Loan Debt

The distribution of student loan debt among Purdue alumni is nearly exact that of the national average for all public college graduates.

Success of Students

Twenty percent strongly agree that Purdue is passionate about the long-term success of its students, which is close to the national public college average (19%).

Interaction with Faculty

Purdue alumni lag behind other colleges with regards to positive interactions with faculty. The majority of Purdue alumni strongly agree that they had at least one professor who excited them about learning (60%); however this is slightly lower than the percent of all public college graduates (62%) and all college graduates (64%) who strongly agree with this statement.

In addition, 17% of Purdue alumni strongly agree that they had a professor who cared about them as a person, compared to 21% of all public college graduates and 27% of all college graduates.