



Building Evidence for Student Success

DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL

THE PROBLEM

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18.5M adults

without a high school credential.

Those with HS diploma earn

77% more

than people without
a diploma or GED.

Only

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and their average annual wage is

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THE COMMON POLICY RESPONSE

Fund
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Evidence of
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Large returns to
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from human capital formation.

22 states offer
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An adult high school where
graduates earn a
**traditional high
school diploma.**

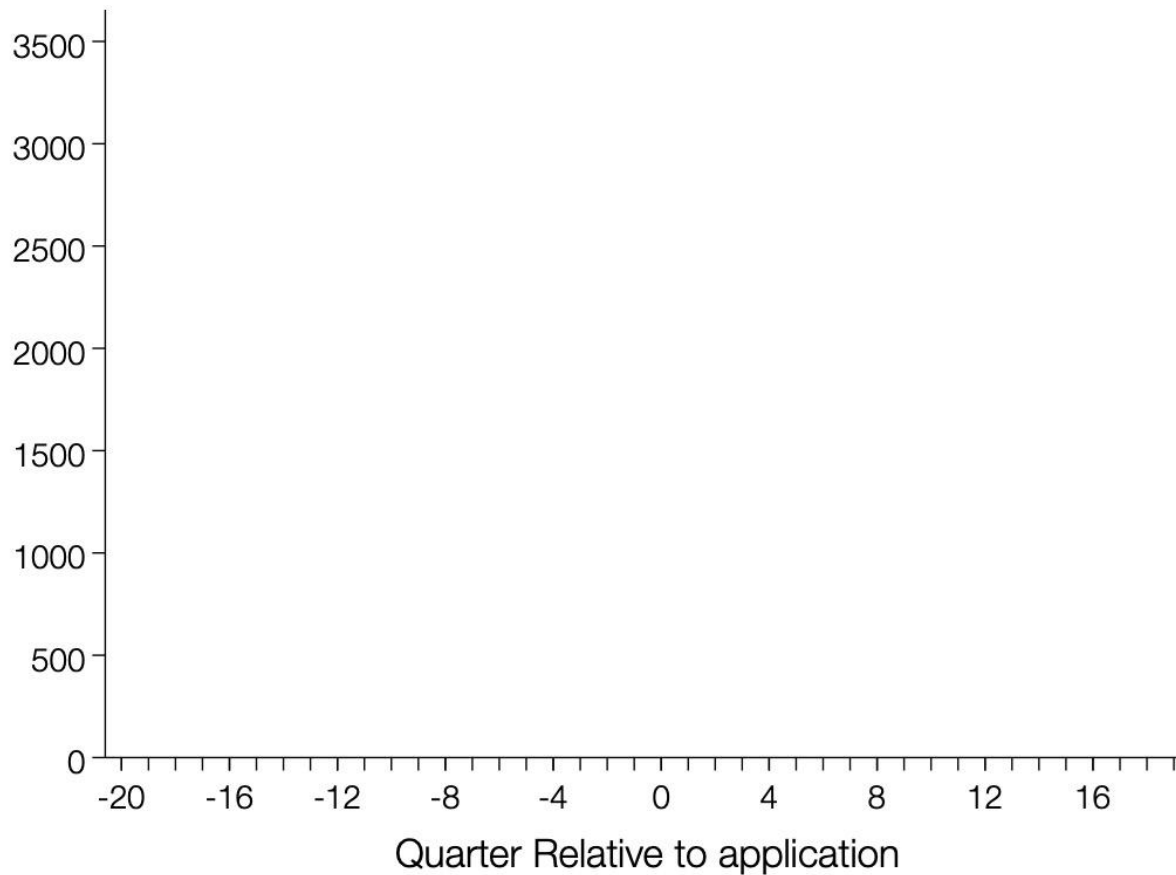
Accelerated curriculum
Flexible schedules
Free childcare
Transportation assistance
Life coaches
Dual credits and certificates



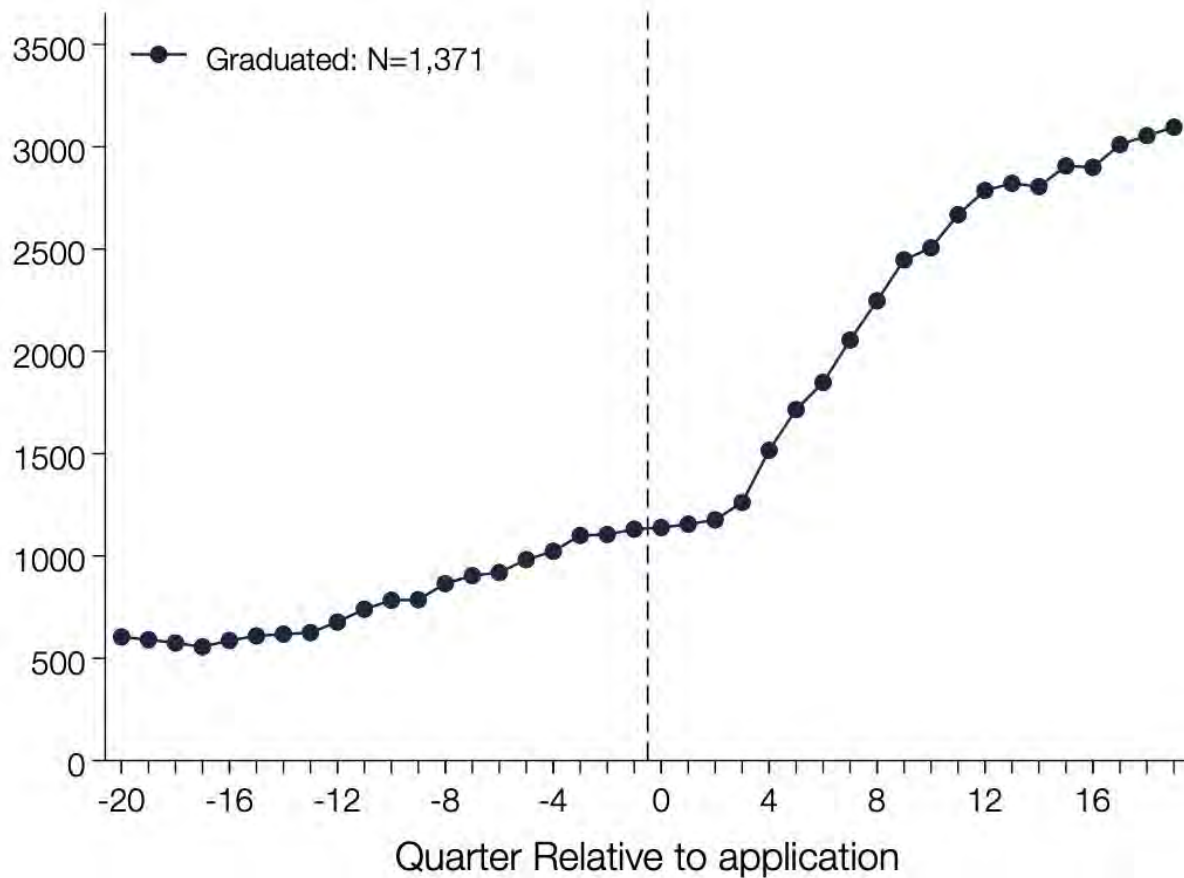
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OPPORTUNITIES



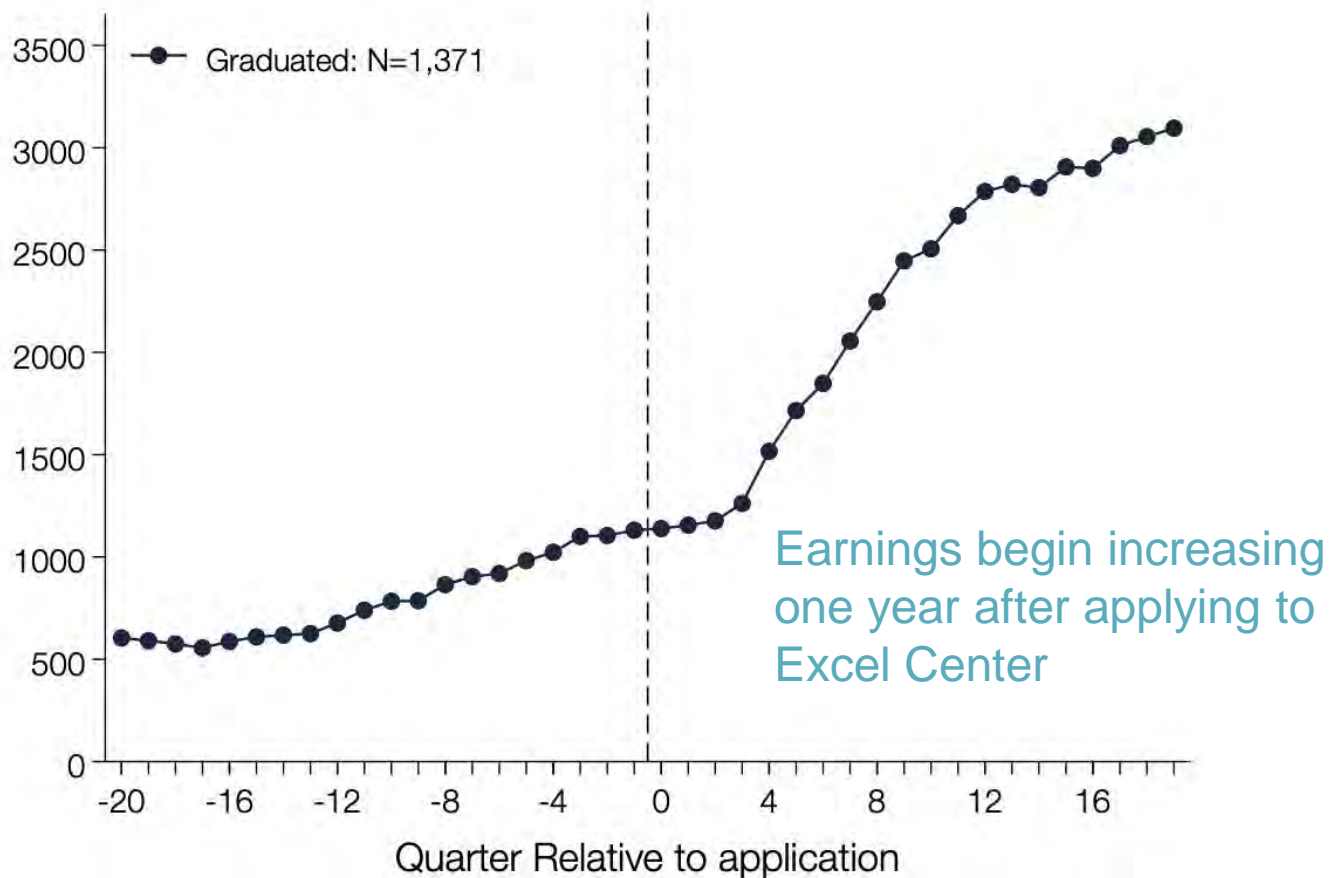
WHAT IS THE RETURN TO AN EXCEL CENTER EDUCATION?



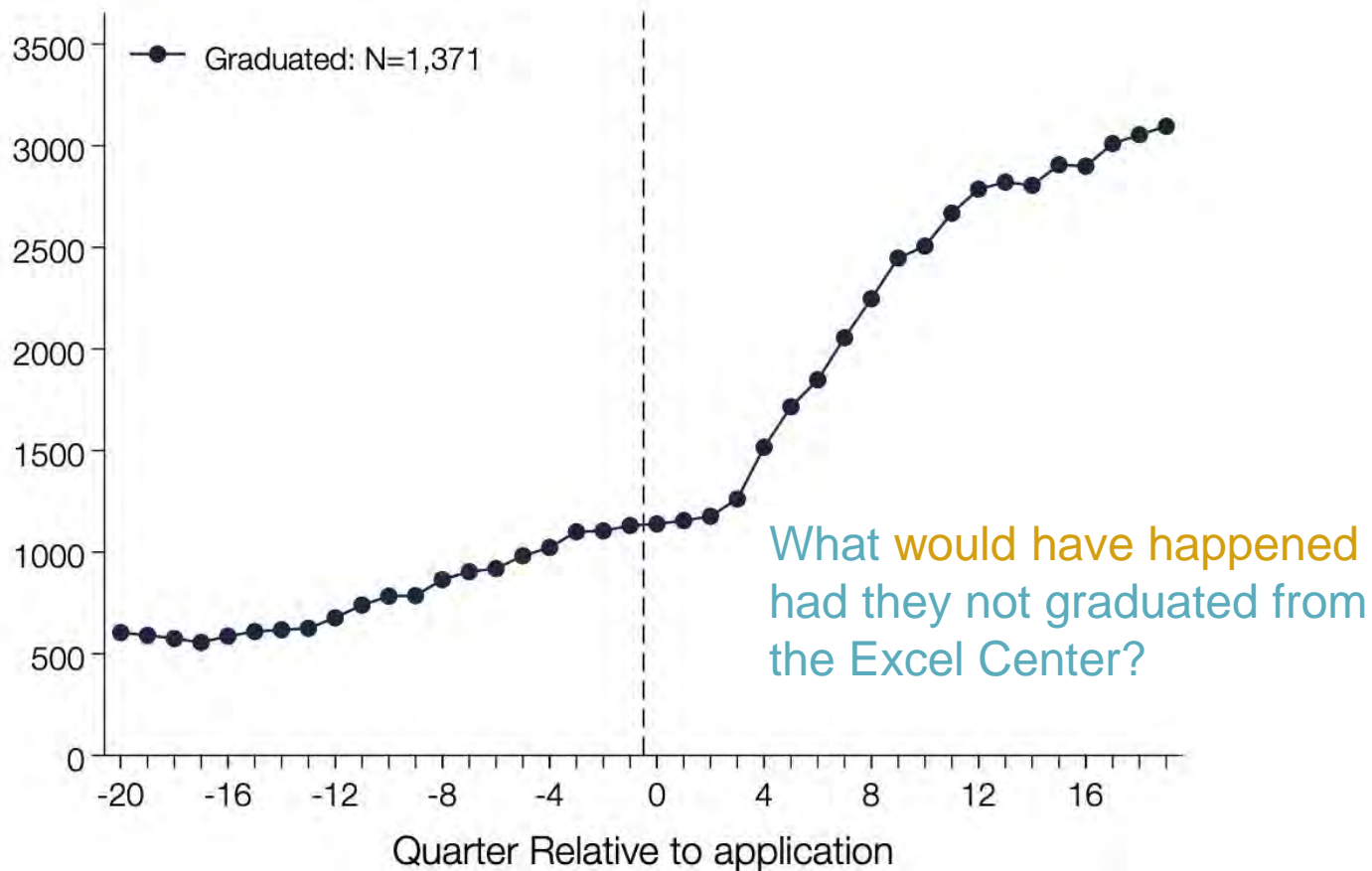
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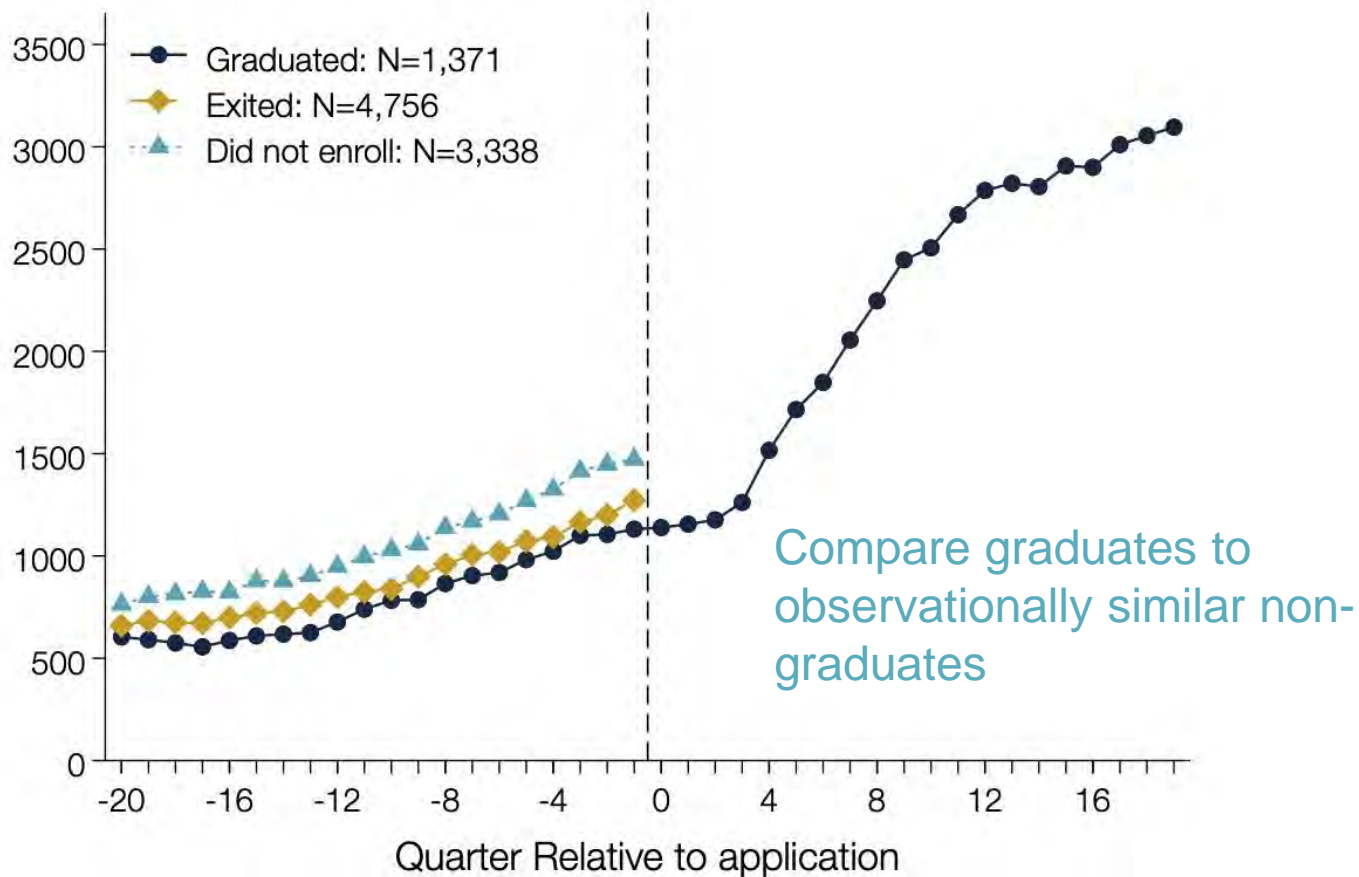
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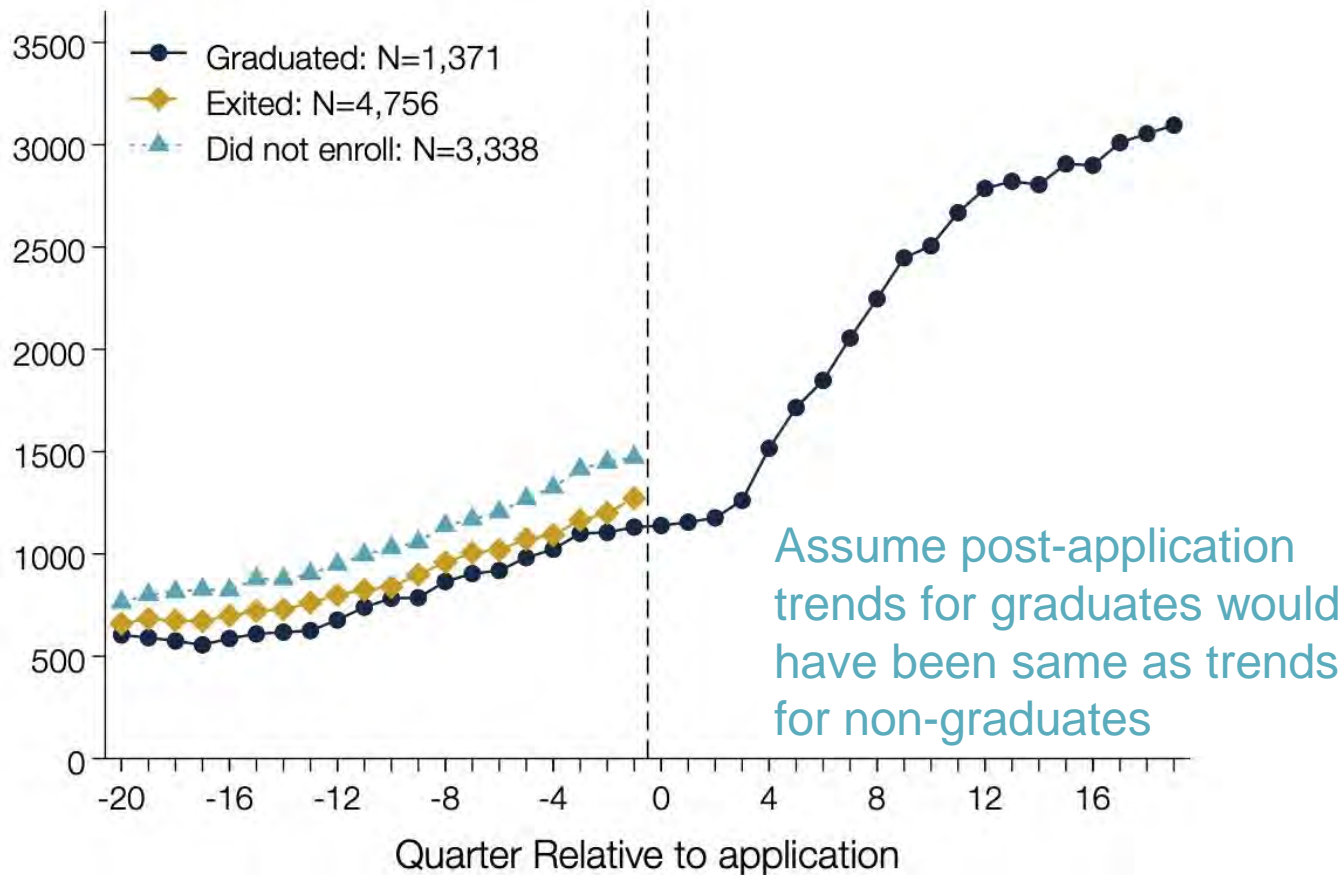
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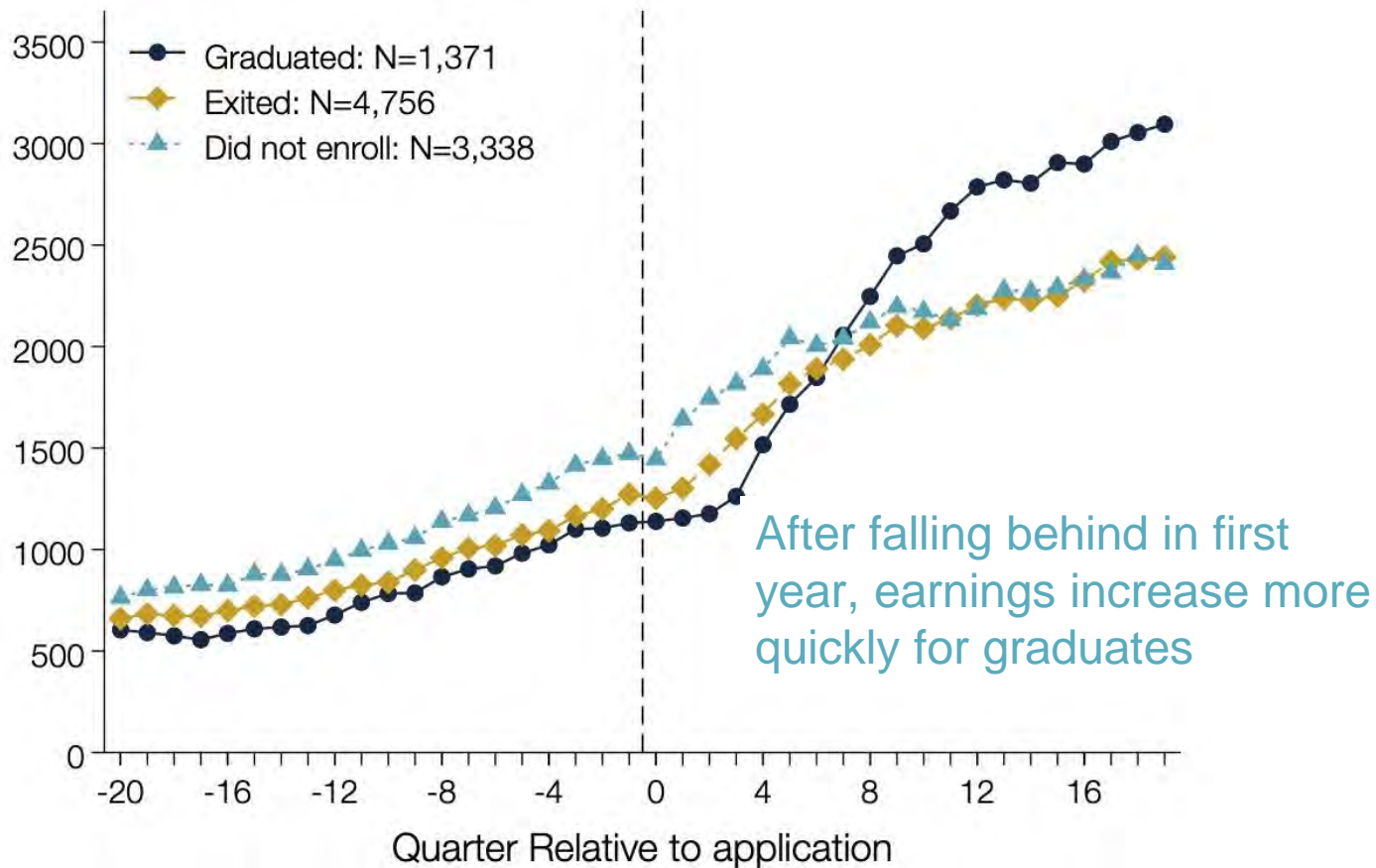
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LARGE INCREASE IN EARNINGS AMONG GRADUATES

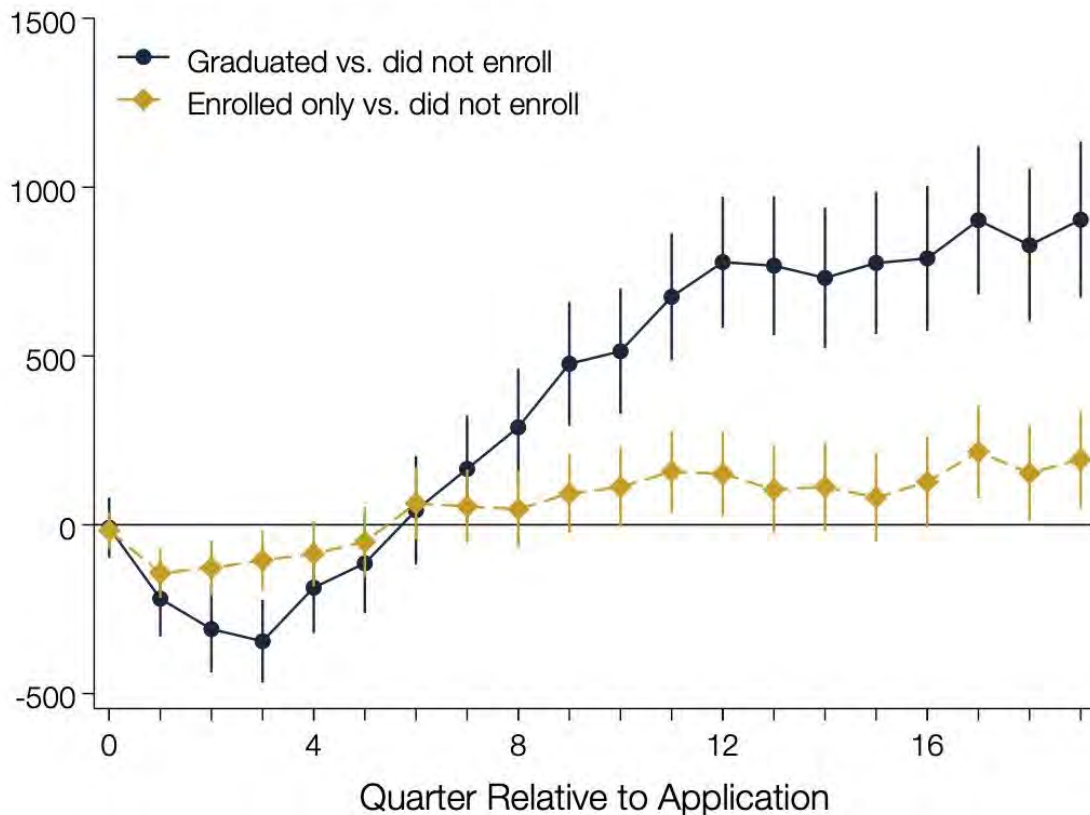
EVENT STUDY FIGURE

Small decline in earnings while enrolled in school

Earnings of graduates increased about \$850 relative to applicants who did not enroll in 5th year after application: **a 38% increase**

More likely to work & working in higher-wage jobs

Small increase for enrolled, but not graduating students (~\$200)



WORK IN HIGHER-WAGE SECTORS



Move into retail pharmacy, education, and healthcare



Leave hospitality work



Industry-recognized certifications

BENEFITS AND COSTS OF EXCEL CENTER

Benefits: **after-tax increase in earnings**

Typical student: **\$33,987**

Costs: net cost to serve a student
(they end up paying more taxes!)

Typical student: \$7,110 ➡ **\$1,657**



MARGINAL VALUE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Compare benefits to net cost to provide program

$$\text{MVPF} = \text{Benefits} / \text{Net Cost}$$

MVPF of The Excel Center:

$$\$33,987 / \$1,657 = \mathbf{20.51}$$

Typical job training program: 0.44

Typical UI program: 0.61



SUMMING UP WHAT WE FIND

Earnings increase 38 percent (\$850/qtr) five years later

Mechanisms: **skill accumulation**

- (+) employment in health
- (+) credits and certificates related to health

Non-graduates?

Do not earn HS diploma elsewhere

Few earn alternative credential (about 10%)

Bigger **bang for buck** than other programs that serve low-income adults





WHAT'S NEXT?

Does graduating from Excel Center affect involvement with criminal justice system?

Can a coaching intervention for students with prior involvement with criminal justice system improve outcomes?

Can a behaviorally-informed student orientation improve enrollment and persistence at the Excel Center?

What is the impact of Excel Center graduation on the kids of graduates?

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

