

**Thoughts on Another Local College-Bound Scholarship
CNSF Library Friends Meeting – March 28, 2023**

Some numbers:

Any recent year – 3 NoFo HSchools with 200 graduating seniors – 175 college-bound

MHS -- Class of 2022 about 108 seniors/100 going on to college (89%)

Mattituck High School listed some 85 locally-sponsored scholarships presented at 2022 commencement

Awards to 150 recipients – some multiple recipients but pretty widely dispersed

More than \$100,000 in total

\$1200 average scholarship/each recipient \$600 – some multiple recipients (valedictorian/salutatorian)

Not likely to be that different at smaller Southold and Greenport high schools –

My hunch: This sort of funding too small to be a significant factor in college-going (yes or no) and college-selecting decision (which college?)

My larger hunch: North Fork college-going a random process where decisions are made with too little information to hand. Under-thought decision

Less research than buying nest car, truck, lawnmower...

Default decision – 1. The closest, seemingly the cheapest, and least hassle/doubt over admission prospects

→ More 1/3rd to SCCC;

More than half to a NY State public;

70% to “non-selective” or “less selective” colleges

Why the information deficit –and resultant outcomes? **Demographic**

Schools too small to devote serious guidance time to college-going – none with a full-time college counselor

Schools too small and out-of-the-way to attract the interest of college recruiters → College Nights

Not much in the way of active college alumni associations out here

Other possible but unlikely and despairing explanations:

Schools not that good?

Students not that good?

Parents unsupportive of securing the best education for their children?

What to do?

1. Secure better data on NoFo college-going than presently provided the community

2. Encourage more collaborative/less siloed efforts in college-advising process (combined College Nights; recruitment visits by the three schools)

3. Make more information/sources of information available – Make the 4 libraries a more contributing part of the process as source of information, host of events

4. Friends of CNSF Library create a fund to support CNSF Library effort to become so, taking a lead if need be