Exploring the Relationships Between GPA, Gender, Internship Participation, and Familial Influence in Salary and Salary Growth of Construction Management Alumni

College students seek to make themselves desirable to employers upon graduation, and employers use subjective and objective information to determine the best applicants. This study aims to survey the factors of college GPA, gender, internship experience, and familial influence and independently explore their relationship with career success as measured by starting salary and salary growth. A convenience sample was collected from construction management graduates from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. The results for this sample found higher starting salaries for respondents who reported having higher GPAs, being female, having completed more internships, and who had an immediate family member in the construction industry. Highest salary growth for this sample was found for respondents who reported having higher GPAs, being male, having completed fewer internships, and who did not have an immediate family member in the industry. The most conclusive result drawn from this study is the strong correlation between salary growth and years of experience.

Key Words: GPA, Salary, Gender, Internship, Success