FUmerical: Facts and figures about Furman

Furman University

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**Q&A**

**ST:** Well, you're hands-on and things become personal. You bring it more into your heart and head, and the lasting effects on you are huge. Without it being personal, it's just another story you've read or course you've studied.

A cynical person might feel that kids from privilege dipping into poverty for course credit is disingenuous. What do you say to those people?

**AT:** I'd say go meet the kids. I was a lawyer for 20 years and can be the biggest cynic, but if you go meet the kids you'll get over that really fast. You know, where you come from doesn't matter as much as where you go.

**ST:** I'd also say, isn't that who you most want to learn? I mean, if poverty hasn't touched you personally, if it hasn't been a factor in your life, then you need the opportunity to learn about it.

Do you believe, though, that the most critical element of the American dream—that it's possible for everyone—has created a permanent blind spot in us when it comes to poverty?

**ST:** Part of the issue with the American dream is that we still believe if people work hard enough, they'll be able to realize it. I think that's less so now. There are a lot of people who are working really, really hard who have less ability to assume their kids are going to do better.

**AT:** I still think America is unbelievable, though, and it's salvageable. It's getting harder to grab the next rung, but I go back to saying I have a lot of optimism about this generation. They don't take no for an answer.

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**FUmerical**

**Facts and figures about Furman**

- 96% of students who report that they are employed or in graduate school six months after graduation.
- 80% of students employed or in graduate school six months after graduation.
- 180 resources available on the Career Center website.
- 99.1% of students that report career counseling sessions as either "effective" or "very effective".
- 2,000 average number of student contacts with the Career Center staff per year.

Much has been in the news lately about how effective a college education is at finding students jobs once college is over. While the debate continues as to whether that is the sole purpose of four years of higher education, we asked Furman's Career Center to give us some numbers on the university's role in helping students make that transition.

- 300 jobs posted each week to the Paladin Job Board.
- 1,100 average Career Center Facebook page views per week.
- 5,404 current number of members belonging to Furman's LinkedIn alumni networking group.