

A dark, atmospheric photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, viewed from a low angle looking down the length of the bridge towards the foggy horizon. The bridge's iconic towers and suspension cables are visible, creating a strong sense of perspective.

# *Mint*

Helping you decide your future

# Our Mission

To provide our users with information they can utilize while making decisions for their future

# Our Objective

# Background

“Obtaining a higher education takes time, effort, and a lot of money.

Is it worth it for me to obtain a college degree?”

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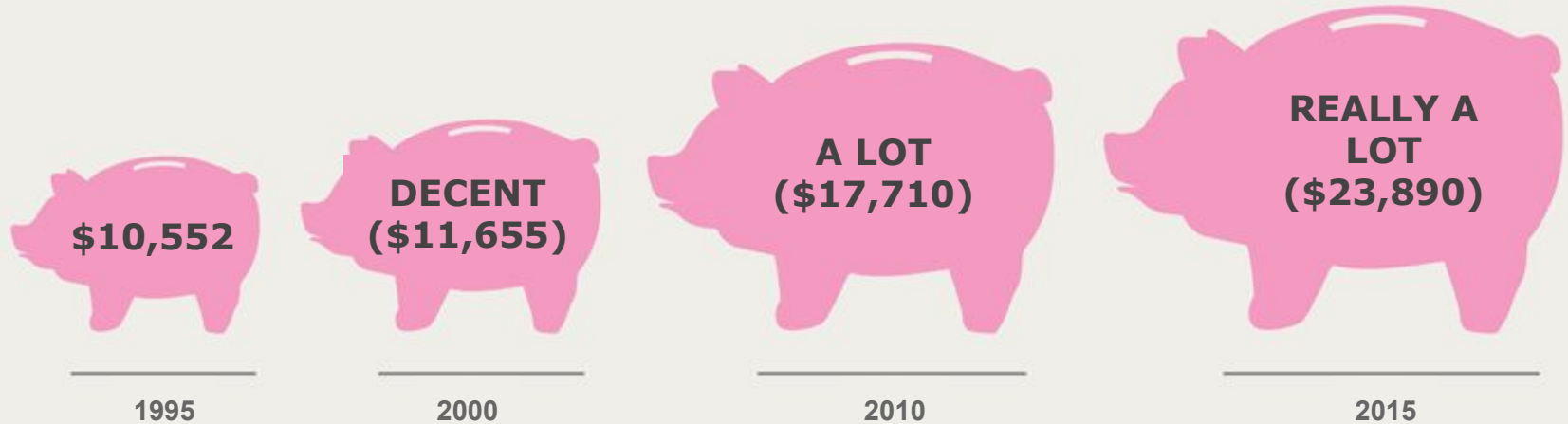
# Target Audience

- Potential students in a dilemma about pursuing higher education
  - Working professionals in a dilemma about going back to school
-

# Problem

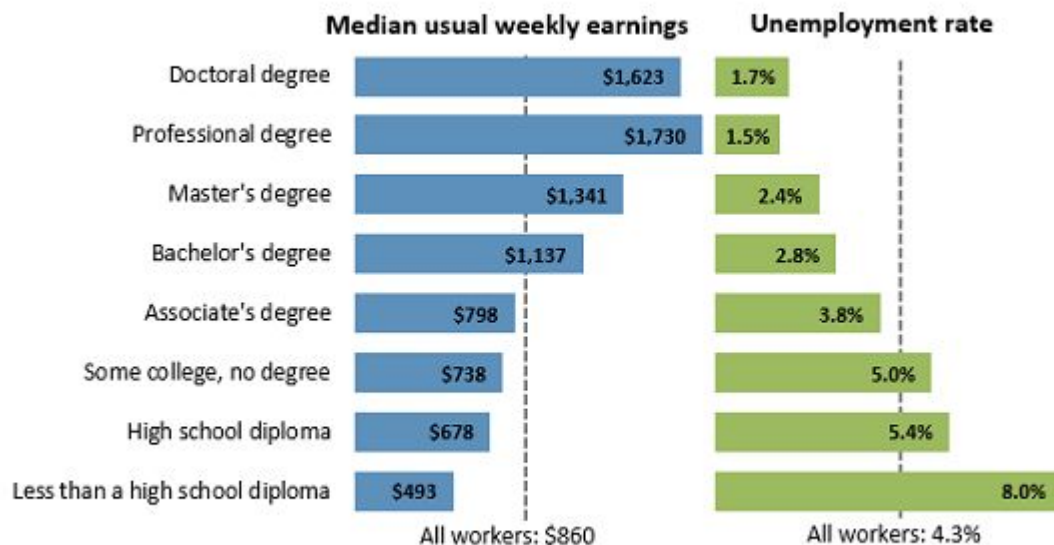
## COLLEGE TUITION RISING

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# Problem

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2015



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

# Problem

Most of the  
available data  
pertaining to  
this question  
are articles  
loaded with text

Google

is college worth it

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About 224,000,000 results (0.57 seconds)

People who argue that **college** is not **worth it** contend that the debt from **college** loans is too high and delays graduates from saving for retirement, buying a house, or getting married. They say many successful people never graduated from **college** and that many jobs, especially trades jobs, do not require **college** degrees.

College Education - ProCon.org ✓  
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Is college worth it? Goldman Sachs says not so much | News for ... ✓  
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Dec 10, 2015 - College is certainly an investment, but it's worth it — right? Maybe not, according to new research from Goldman Sachs. The company said in a research note published in early December that the average return on college is falling. In 2010, students could expect to break even within eight years of finishing school.

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People who argue that college is not worth it contend that the debt from college loans is too high and delays graduates from saving for retirement, buying a house, or getting married. They say many successful people never graduated from college and that many jobs, especially trades jobs, do not require college degrees.  
Footnotes & Sources - Pro & Con Quotes - Top 10 Wealthiest Americans ...

Is college worth it? Goldman Sachs says maybe not - CNN Money ✓  
[money.cnn.com/2015/12/09/news/.../college-not-worth-it-goldman/](http://money.cnn.com/2015/12/09/news/.../college-not-worth-it-goldman/) ▾ CNNMoney ▾  
Dec 9, 2015 - A college degree is getting so expensive that it might not be worth the money anymore. ... Many students are better off not going to mediocre colleges — ones that rank in the bottom 25% of all universities — Goldman says in a new report. ... In 2010, the typical college student had to ...

Is college worth it? | The Economist ✓  
[www.economist.com/.../21600131-too-many-degrees-are-waste-money...](http://www.economist.com/.../21600131-too-many-degrees-are-waste-money...) ▾ The Economist ▾  
Apr 5, 2014 - Too many degrees are a waste of money. The return on higher education would be much ...



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a stylus, poised to draw on a tablet. The background is out of focus, showing bokeh light effects. The text 'Our Solution' is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

# Our Solution

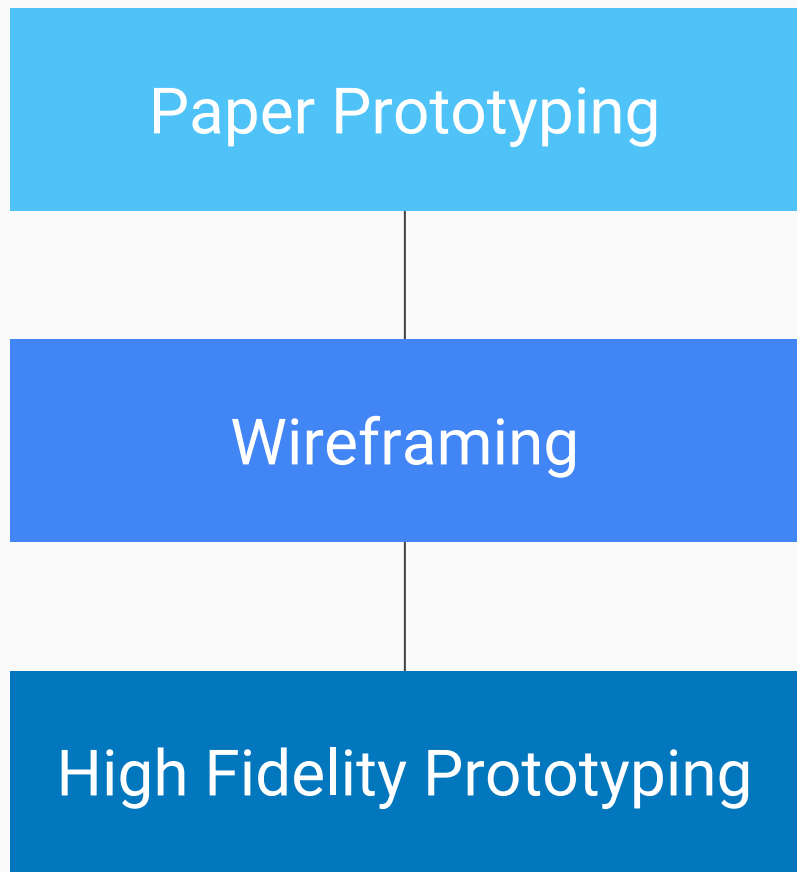
Dynamic visualizations of different data pertaining to education and income

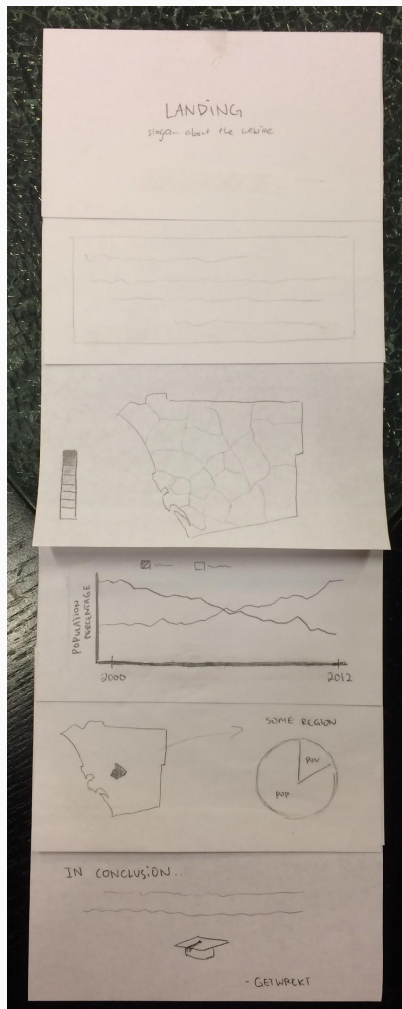
This helps users visualize and conclude whatever possible correlations that may exist when deciding on whether or not to pursue college

# Design

# Design Process

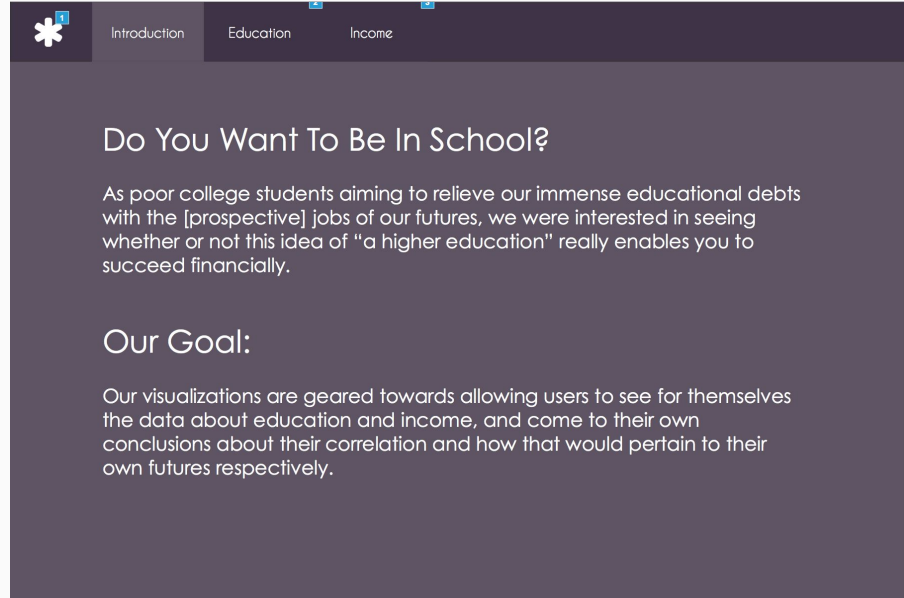
It was an  
iterative  
process to get  
to where we  
wanted





# Paper Prototype

# Wireframing



# High-Fidelity Prototype

*PaveTheWay*

How It Works Visualization

## Should you obtain a higher education?

For many, it only seems natural to attend college as soon as their secondary education is complete. However, for others, this is a question that is commonly asked as they must weigh out the payoff from their potential financial stability compared to the immense educational debt they may incur.

## Our Goal

As college students questioning our benefits of attending college, we are interested in seeing whether or not there is a link between higher education and financial success.

By creating visualizations between data pertaining to education and income, we aim to allow users to come to their own conclusions about possible correlations when deciding whether or not to pursue college.

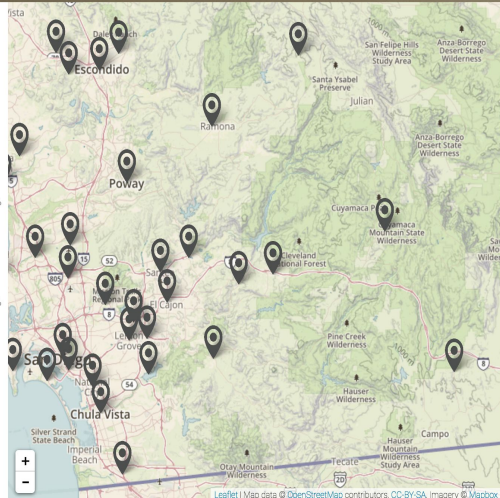
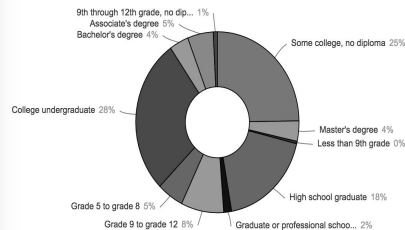
*PaveTheWay*

How It Works Visualization

Click on a marker to see data about that region.

## Education Level

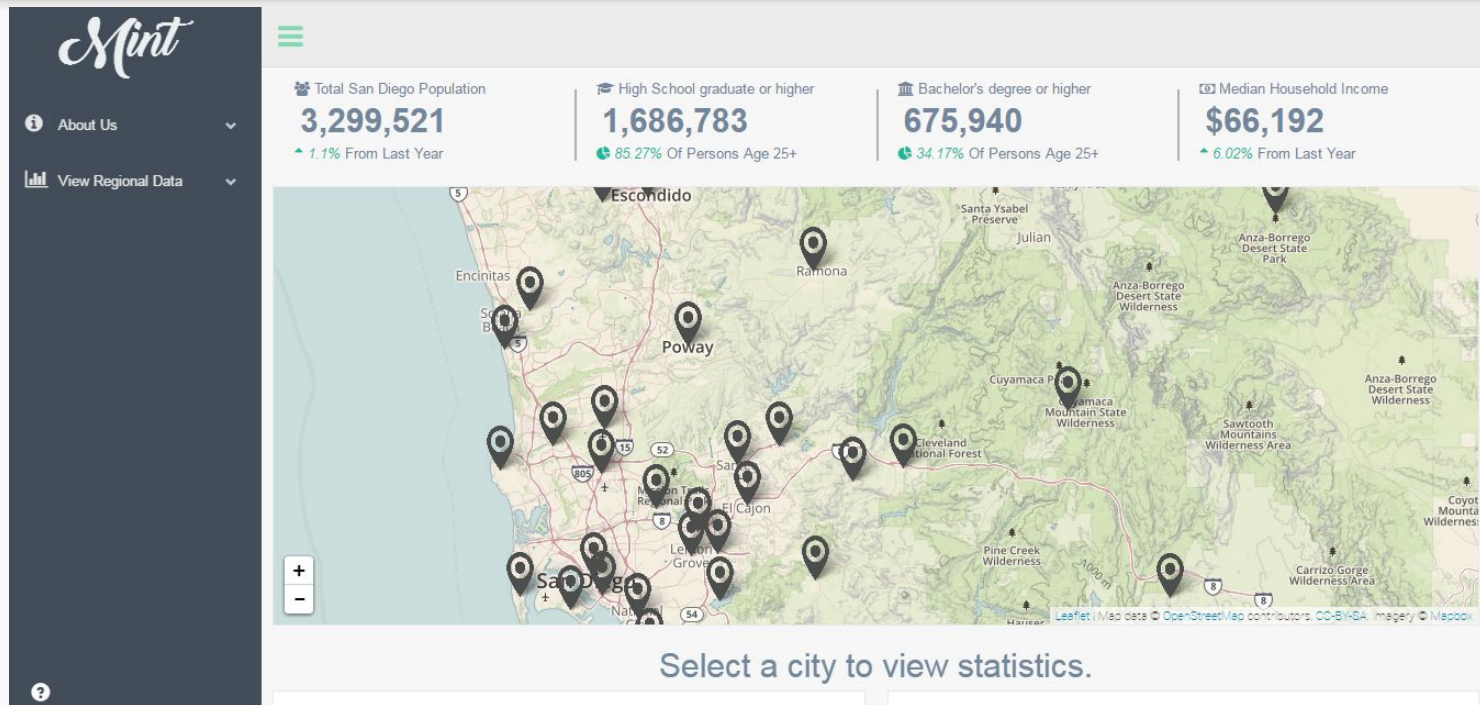
This chart shows the education level in this area as % of overall population



Leaflet | Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA, Imagery © Mapbox



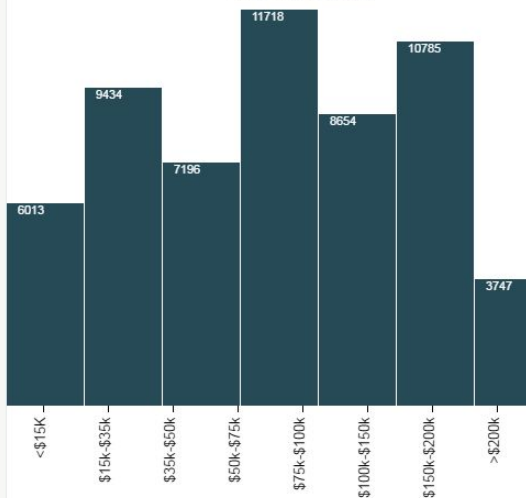
# Final Design



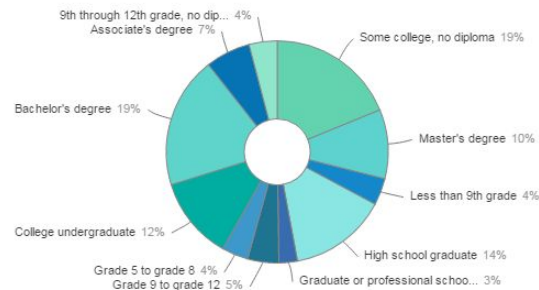
# Final Design Pt. 2

## Kearny Mesa

Income Levels



Education Levels





# System Development

# The People Problem

- Many people ask and want to know if college is really worth the investment
  - Our application allows users to look at past records of education levels and the corresponding income levels for subregions of San Diego
-

# Software Process

*“Our application allows users to look at past **records** of education levels and the corresponding income levels for **subregions** of San Diego”*

- Records meant **data**
- Subregions meant we needed a **map**

# Technical Problems

## MAPS & GRAPHS

- Finding a suitable mapping library-  
Leaflet addressed our concerns
- We used simple bar and pie charts  
to display data so that users have a  
degree of familiarity with the  
visualizations

## EFFICIENCY

- Database calls cause latency
  - We stored our data in local JSON  
files
  - Calls to local files experience much  
lower latency
-

# Technologies

- **Leaflet Javascript Library**
  - Mapbox API
- **Bootstrap**
- **D3**
- **Express & Node.js**



# Demo!

[getmint.herokuapp.com](https://getmint.herokuapp.com)



# Conclusion

# Project Risks

- Transforming plain data into something useful was a challenge
- Worried about not being able to present the data in a meaningful way
- Had trouble getting the visualizations to work correctly
- Designing the website



# Team Structure

**Calvin Gomez**- Project Leader

**Arnold Chen**- Back End Development

**James Kong**- Visualizations

**Alisa Prathnadi**- Front End Design

**Diana Ho**- Data & Front End Design