Dr. Aldemaro Romero Jr. Letters from Academia

percent, is also the lowest since the recession of seven years ago.

According to this report, total hires at all degree levels will increase by 15 percent. Hiring of those with a bachelor's degree is expected to be up by 10 percent, and those with a master's degree 5 percent.

Other good news in this report is that starting salaries for college graduates continue to be rising, becoming more competitive, particularly for those in science careers. This is particularly good news for those that despite the lower unemployment rates and higher economic outlook for the U.S. economy, the median household income in this country has eroded.

Average U.S. families are making more money overall when adjusted for inflation than they were 50 years ago. Thus, those with a college degree are doing much better than the average American family.

Other factors that favor this positive trend. For example, nearly 50 percent of employers that are hiring are reporting that they are having a difficult time finding qualified candidates.

The best jobs for college graduates in 2016 offer the possibility of a positive direction. One is the increasing wave of remote-based positions for college graduates. Typically, remote work allows for flexible hours and the ability to work from home.

It is interesting that the most in-demand college majors are not those that are considered to be the most lucrative. Instead, the top-earning career fields for the 2016 graduating class include: computer science, business, engineering, and health care.

Of course the naysayers will say that such success is not equal across disciplines. They say that a degree in the social sciences or humanities offers little to no positive impact in terms of both employability and salaries.

Take, for example, the humanities (loosely defined as including things like art, history, philosophy, literature, and languages). For some critics of higher education, even to pursue such studies is a waste of time. They claim that these careers lead nowhere and have even worse outcomes. For example, a new study sheds light on this topic. While the results have not been released, The State of the Humanities report, which was released by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and points out that things are not as bleak in these career fields as some people claim.