Interactive Common Data Set: Increasing User Engagement and Data Availability with Tableau dashboards

The Common Data Set (CDS) is a set of standards and definitions of data items used by publications such as College Board, Peterson's, and U.S. News. The CDS format most commonly published by institutions does not allow unfamiliar users to easily interact and consume the data. By investing time in arranging historical CDS data in a Tableau-compatible data structure, the wealth of institutional data is now easily accessible for all users via a dynamic, interactive dashboard that increases user engagement and data availability.

Talk outline
- Brief overview of CDS
- Why we developed the Interactive dashboard
- The UT Interactive CDS
- Outcomes
- Workbook and underlying data structure
- Questions

Takeaways
- A better understanding of the usefulness of the CDS for both internal and external users.
- Knowledge of how to transform the CDS into a user-friendly dashboard, replacing cumbersome excel sheets or PDFs.

Dashboard and samples
UT Interactive CDS
Sample workbook and data sources

Other links
AAUDE CDS Exchange Item page (aaude.org → member home → Exchange Items → Common Data Set)
Common Data Set Initiative
Tableau resources for education
Tableau education data visualization blog

About the speaker
Bechor Barouch is a Data Intelligence Analyst at The University of Texas at Austin. He specializes in creating business intelligence dashboards for university leadership and the general public. Bechor believes that data, just like cookies, should be easily accessible and effortlessly consumed, goals which he strives toward in both his visualizations and his bakes.