

Looking At The ISSUES

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New Study Shows Other Ways Stark County Can Benefit From More College Degrees

We've talked a great deal in ISSUES about the need to increase the number of four year college degrees in Stark County.

We already know that college graduates contribute to a highly skilled workforce. They earn more, buy more, and pay more in taxes. Everybody's salary goes up. In fact, for every percentage point the number of college graduates grow in a community, high school drop-outs' wages go up by 1.9%, high school graduates' wages by 1.6%, and college graduates wages by 0.4%.¹

What other benefits might the community realize? The answer comes in part from a study released late last year by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences², from data gathered in the first major longitudinal study of bachelor's degree holders and their outcomes. Over 9,000 individuals representing 1.2 million graduates were tracked for ten years in this study. Here is what was found.

- Over a quarter of the graduates had continued on to earn master's, professional, or doctoral degrees.
- Average salary (2003) was \$60,700.
- Only 4% were unemployed³.
- The majority (68%) had married and about half (51%) now had children; only 6% had divorced.
- Nearly half (47%) were actively involved in community service volunteering their time.
- Over a third (39%) had worked to raise funds for their schools or community groups.
- An astonishing 93% were registered to vote and 76% had actually voted in the 2002 election.

¹ From a study by Enrico Moretti (2002) of the Department of Economics, University of California at Berkeley. Estimating the Social Return to Higher Education: Evidence From Longitudinal and Repeated Cross-Sectional Data.

² (2006). Where Are They Now? A Description of 1992-93 Bachelor's Degree Recipients 10 Years Later. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education, NCES 2007-159. The full study can be downloaded at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007159.pdf>

³ Out of work and actively looking for work.

In The News

The Stark Education Partnership was referenced in two major publications recently. The first was in Crain's Cleveland Business in the article "Action Now" which ran on April 2nd. To read the article, visit http://www.edpartner.org/pdfs/craains_cleveland_business_4.2.07.pdf.



The second reference to the Partnership occurred in a report funded by Gates, through the Center for Reinventing Education, entitled: *Not for the Timid: Breaking Down Barriers, Creating Breakthrough High Schools in Ohio* (see page 66). The entire document may be downloaded at http://www.edpartner.org/pdfs/not_for_the_timid.pdf.