

Looking At The ISSUES

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Looking At The Week

Education and Earnings in Stark County

In addition to the higher earnings enjoyed by individuals who have attended or graduated from college, we all benefit from the higher tax revenues, the lower demands on social support programs, and the higher productivity generated by the highly educated. – Solutions for Our Future¹

The relationship between education and earnings has often been cited in recent years to justify the additional expense of a college degree. Just how well does that relationship hold up in Stark County? The answer, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006 *American Community Survey*² is that it holds up quite well. In Stark, as in Ohio and across the nation, higher education means higher earnings.



Estimated Median Earnings by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over ³	Stark	Ohio	US
Less than high school graduate	\$19,859	\$17,748	\$18,641
High school graduate (or equivalency)	\$25,090	\$26,207	\$26,123
Some college or associate's degree	\$27,899	\$31,308	\$31,936
Bachelor's degree	\$42,092	\$43,469	\$45,221
Graduate or professional degree	\$59,405	\$56,144	\$59,804

What can Stark Countians expect in the future as the community's higher education rate increases? Enrico Moretti who holds the Michael Peevey and Donald Vial Chair in Labor Economics at the University of California, Berkeley gives an idea.

I find that a percentage point increase in the supply of college graduates raises high school drop-outs' wages by 1.9%, high school graduates' wages by 1.6%, and college graduates wages by 0.4%.⁴

In other words, more college graduates will mean higher salaries for everyone.

Ohio P-16 Conversation

On Tuesday Dr. Adrienne O'Neill and Dr. Joe Rochford attended "Thinking through P-16 in Ohio – Past, Present, and Future," a conversation sponsored by the KnowledgeWorks Foundation in Columbus.

P-16 Teleconference

On Thursday, Dr. Joe Rochford presented the story of the Stark County P-16 Compact via telephone to a focus group of community leaders at Ohio University-Southern in Ironton.

¹ See: <http://www.solutionsforourfuture.org/site/PageServer>.

² ACS data is available at: www.census.gov

³ Note: All categories are subject to margins of error.

⁴ From: *Estimating the social return to higher education: evidence from longitudinal and repeated cross-sectional data*. Available at: <http://www.econ.berkeley.edu/~moretti/papers.html>