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A College Education: Beyond Dollars and Cents

April 2010, Issue N.1

When students consider getting a college degree, most focus on the usual benefits: increased income, better job opportunities and a higher standard of living. But the advantages of higher education go far beyond that.

The impact of higher education touches families and communities. It's about more than better jobs and wages. Increasing education levels can also lead to less poverty, less crime, greater civic participation and brighter outcomes for the entire community.

The United Way and the American Human Development Project created a graphic tool to illustrate these ripple effects and how they might resonate locally and nationally. The [Common Good Forecaster](#) shows how education impacts a few major areas:

Improved Health

- Life expectancy in the U.S. is 78.5 years, but those with a college education live an average of seven years longer.
- People with higher education have better access to healthcare and are less likely to be obese.
- Incidence of low birth weight in children drops as parental education rises.
- Those with higher education have a greater ability to cope with stress and depression.

Reduced Poverty

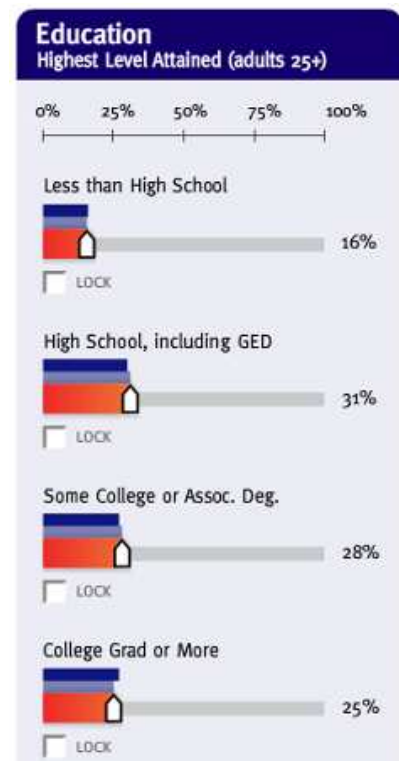
- Education has the greatest impact on poverty. Without a college education, a person is nearly three times more likely to live in poverty.
- Poverty and decreased education also reinforce each other. Children of poverty are less likely to enter and graduate from college.

Less Crime

- The murder rate drops almost 30 percent with just one additional **year of high school education**. Post-secondary education continues to reduce crime, as it leads to legitimate work and higher wages.
- Education helps students socialize and learn values that mitigate criminal behavior.

Greater Civic Engagement

- College graduates are 50 percent more likely to vote in the presidential election.
- Higher education also leads to a better understanding of national issues and democratic values, and affects the quality of our democracy.



Click on the image to enlarge the graph.

More Opportunities for Children

- College-educated parents encourage their children to have a more positive attitude towards learning and also provide better educational resources.
- The educational level of parents also influences their children's success in school, leading to better readers by middle school.

The ability to earn more, get better jobs and other [personal benefits](#) are important. But the broader picture also shows us that when students go to college, it benefits us all.

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DID YOU KNOW...?

Approximately nine out of 10 MDC students stay in the region and contribute to the local economy after they leave the college.

CERTIFICATION NEWS



Miami Dade College School of Education graduates nominated for School District's "Rookie Teacher of the Year"

Miami, November 25, 2009 - In the five years since its first baccalaureate graduating class, Miami Dade College's (MDC) School of Education has earned several accolades for its ability to train the region's educators. Recently, four School of Education graduates were nominated for "Rookie Teacher of the Year" by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

[More...](#)

IF THEY DON'T GO TO COLLEGE...

“

If they don't go to college...their chances of being unemployed doubles.

Source: College Board - [Education Pays 2004 Study](#)

PULSE

How many of your students plan on going to college?

[Answer Here!](#)

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- [Florida Child Care Professional \(formerly CDA\)](#)
- [Florida Child Care Professional Certificate Renewal](#)
- [Director's Credential Renewal](#)
- [Associate in Science Degrees](#)
- [Pre-School Lab at North Campus](#)

K-12 Teacher Education Programs

- [Associate in Arts Degrees](#)
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 - [Education Requirements](#)
 - [Field Experience](#)
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Baccalaureate Degrees

- [Requirements for Admissions](#)
- [Teacher Recertification Courses and Endorsements](#)

Programs of Study

- [Exceptional Student Education \(K-12\)](#)
- [Mathematics Education \(6-12\)](#)

Science Education (6-12):

- [Biology](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Earth/Space Science](#)
- [Physics](#)

Center for Professional Development

- [Temporary Instructor Training](#)
- [Associate in Science in Instructional Services Technology \(Instructional Paraprofessional program\)](#)
- [Educator Preparation Institute \(alternative pathways to teacher certification\)](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
 - [Florida Teach Grants](#)
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