

STATE OF COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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PRESS RELEASE: COLORADO AMONG STATES HIGHLIGHTED IN NATIONAL REPORT EMPHASIZING VALUE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

DENVER – Colorado is one of five states highlighted today in a national report, titled *Higher Education Pays*, emphasizing the value of a postsecondary credential.

The report summarizes findings from five states, including Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia as well as Colorado, on the first-year earnings of students with various levels of high school and college education.

Each of those five states partnered with College Measures to produce reports and accompanying websites making publicly available the median first-year earnings of recent graduates from two-year and four-year institutions one year after obtaining their degrees or certificates.

Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, who also serves as executive director of the Department of Higher Education, released the Colorado report in March. While noting the data is incomplete, as it includes only salaries of those remaining in Colorado, Garcia said it is nevertheless important and useful information for prospective students and their families.

“As one of the first states to participate in this effort, Colorado remains committed to encouraging more of its residents to pursue postsecondary opportunities,” said Garcia, the former president of Colorado State University Pueblo and Pikes Peak Community College. “We want to provide students with the information they need to make good decisions as they prepare to enter, or re-enter, the workforce.”

Today’s report shows some findings in the Colorado data hold true across all five states. For example, some graduates with a technical two-year degree may earn more initially than those with a bachelor’s degree.

“Higher education is one of the most important investments that people make ... but as they enter the labor market, some graduates earn far more than others,” the report’s author, Mark Schneider, said. “Prospective students need sound information about where their educational choices are likely to lead.”

You can see today’s report here – http://www.air.org/files/Higher_Education_Pays_Sep_13.pdf
To learn more about the Colorado-only report, released earlier this year, visit this link – http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Press/Releases/2013/20130416_RemedialReportrelease.pdf