

TOPIC: 2015 EDPAYS REPORT

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I. SUMMARY

For the second time, the Colorado Department of Higher Education presents a new and improved version of EdPays (formerly known as College Measures), an interactive data tool and companion report that shows median earnings one, five and 10 years after graduation based on field of study, degree type and public Colorado institution.

The 2015 Ed Pays report covers:

- Between 2008 and 2013, the number of short-term certificates (those requiring less than one year of study) awarded grew by more than 25%. The number of associate's degrees awarded grew by 47% in the same period. In total, more than 23,000 of these "subbaccalaureate" credentials were awarded in 2013, approaching the 27,519 bachelor's degree granted in Colorado.
- The median per capita income in 2013 in Colorado was \$31,421. Within one year of graduation, students with an associate's of applied science degree had the highest median earnings - \$41,554 - far in excess of the state median.
- Students graduating with a bachelor's degree, while lagging the earnings of AAS graduates by almost \$8,000, still have wages at the first year mark (\$33,091) that are greater than the state benchmark.
- After 10 years, bachelor's graduates earn more than graduates with other credentials but completers of less than one year certificates and graduates with associate's degrees in applied science degrees earn almost as much.

It is important to note that these data are for graduates working in Colorado covered by the state's unemployment insurance system and that given the mobility of students from many of these campuses match rates can be low, since many bachelor's degree completers leave Colorado for employment or further study and are not included in the EdPays data calculations.

II. BACKGROUND

The EdPays report and interactive tool (co.edpays.org) are the result of a partnership between the state of Colorado and College Measures supported by a grant from the Lumina Foundation and is not legislatively mandated.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Report attached.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is an information item only; no formal action is required by the Commission.