

Addressing ROI in Higher Education

July 19, 2023

Raising the Bar: What states need to do to hit their ambitious higher education attainment goals Released February 2020



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It's Complicated: The relationship between postsecondary attainment and state finances Released January 2021



Figure 3: State revenue effects for a bachelor's degree, by state



Strengthening Mississippi's economic future through postsecondary investment

Released January 2023

- The curves track cumulative returns to the state in 2020 dollars for an individual of a given education level, adjusting for inflation, over the course of their working life.
- Estimates of public return incorporate annual estimated state income tax, sales tax, property tax, and cost to the state in Medicaid and welfare spending.
- Mississippians with higher levels of education pay more in taxes, and cost less to the state in Medicaid and welfare spending.



Estimated lifetime returns to Mississippi for each individual with a specified level of attainment

Source: 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) & Current Population Survey (CPS)



Investing in educational opportunities for Black and Female Mississippians may have the greatest fiscal return for the state

- This graph shows the percent difference in public return associated with a given level of educational attainment *relative* to only earning a high school diploma.
- Black residents with a Bachelor's degree return more than 2 times more in taxes and reduced spending than if they had only received a high school diploma, compared to white residents who return 1.57 times more.
- Female residents with a Bachelor's degree return 2.22 times more in taxes and reduced spending than if they had only received a high school diploma, compared to males who return 1.74 times more.



Cumulative return to the state of Mississippians by race, sex, and postsecondary credential, relative to

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Identifying High-Opportunity Occupations



Creating pathways to high wage careers can help bridge the gap in expected earnings between Black Mississippians, white Mississippians, men, and women





Where do we go from here?

- How is demand for high-opportunity occupations being met?
 - Are graduates from in-state institutions filtering into areas of need?
- How valuable are sub-associate degree credentials to the state?
- Using administrative data from state longitudinal data systems can help us answer these questions





Thank You

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