

# Benefits of Completing College

## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Individuals can receive hundreds of benefits by attending and completing college. To help inform all Utahans of these benefits, we have created 6 one-page handouts that summarize these benefits by category. These can be used with children, teens, and adults in any type of setting, including homes, schools, churches, communities, and college campuses.

### Better Jobs and Higher Pay

The economic benefits of higher education are growing, and the earning gap between college graduates and non-college graduates continues to expand. An investment in education will lead to a lifetime of economic advantages, including higher earnings, lower unemployment, better employer-provided benefits, and greater job satisfaction.

### Healthier and Happier Lifestyles

Individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to live longer, healthier, and happier lives. This "halo" of good health and a positive mental outlook is passed along to the families of college graduates and even affects health care costs in the communities where they live.

### Confident, Stronger Sense of Self

Enhanced self-esteem, personal development, and determination are gained through postsecondary education. Self-understanding and confidence can form a foundation for lasting achievements throughout one's adult life.

### Intellectual and Reasoning Abilities

College graduates show a measurable improvement in factual and core knowledge, reasoning capabilities, and critical thinking, analysis, and lifelong learning skills.

### Parenting

Higher education can have a tremendous impact on an individual's parenting knowledge, skills, and choices. Educated parents are more likely to be involved with their children's education and to promote good health and positive lifestyle choices.

### Society

Education prepares individuals to be actively involved in and contribute to their communities. Educated citizens are more likely to vote, volunteer, and hold community leadership positions. Formal education enables individuals to "give back" to the communities where they work and live.

The following sources provided the data used for this set of materials:

- ✂ "The Value of Higher Education for Women in Utah," Retrieved at: [http://www.utahwomenandeducation.org/assets/Research\\_\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_1.pdf](http://www.utahwomenandeducation.org/assets/Research__Policy_Brief_1.pdf)
- ✂ "Education Pays 2010: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society," Retrieved at: <http://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/education-pays-2010-full-report.pdf>
- ✂ "Goals for the Common Good: Exploring the Impact of Education," Retrieved at: [http://www.measureofamerica.org/file/common\\_good\\_forecaster\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.measureofamerica.org/file/common_good_forecaster_full_report.pdf)

[www.utwomen.org](http://www.utwomen.org)

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