

**San Bernardino Community College District
District Strategic Planning Committee
Strategic Issues Subcommittee Report**

Subcommittee Member: Matthew

Date of Report: January 25, 2010

Subcommittee Topic

1. Educational attainment in relation to economic opportunity

Highlights

1. Statewide, the income of three cohorts of wage-earning community college recipients of a degree or certificate (in 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03) were tracked for four years after their awards; none of these students had transferred to a four-year institution. Their **median annual income** in the first year after the award **jumped 39%** in 2001, **52%** in 2002, and **44%** in 2003. By comparison, the California median household income rose 0.6%, 0.7%, and 3.8% in the corresponding years.
2. By the fourth year after the award, their median income had risen **cumulatively 24%, 29%, and 26%** over the first year after the award, respectively. By comparison, the California median household income rose 4%, 1%, and 1% in the corresponding years.
3. The year before their award, the median income of these students was 63%, 58%, and 65% of the corresponding California median household income, respectively. By the fourth year, the **median income of all three cohorts exceeded the corresponding California median household income.**
4. Nationally, the unemployment rate in 2007 for people 25 years old and over who had completed only high school was **47% higher** than for people who had received only an associate's degree, and **120% higher** than for people who had received a bachelor's or higher degree.
5. Nationally, in 2007, the median annual incomes of full-time workers 25 years old and over by highest level of educational attainment were as follows:

	High School	Some College	Difference from HS	Associate's	Difference from HS	Bachelor's	Difference from HS
Males	\$37,860	\$44,900	19%	\$49,040	30%	\$62,090	64%
Females	\$27,240	\$32,840	21%	\$36,330	33%	\$45,770	68%

Most Important Implications

- 1-3. The economic advantages of obtaining a certificate or degree from a California community college are immediate and long-lasting, even for students who do not go on to a four-year institution. These advantages comprise a major selling point for the District in times when it can accommodate growth.
4. Obtaining an AA or AS is insurance against unemployment, another major selling point.
5. Full-time workers with some college, but less than a degree (which included certificates), make one-fifth better money than competitors with only a high school diploma. Full-time workers with an AA or AS make one-third better money than competitors with only a high school diploma. Moving on to a BA or BS only improves income prospects, and the effects of educational attainment are greater for females than for males. These statistics comprise yet another major selling point when the District is seeking growth.

Sources: ARCC 2009 Report; NCES Digest of Education Statistics, 2008.