



# NEWS

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## **Report puts dollar value on education**

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. – A report on higher education in Georgia released by the University System of Georgia shows payoffs for graduates and reveals similar benefits to students who graduate from Georgia College & State University.

The Intellectual Capital Partnership Program commissioned the statewide study, the “Value of University System of Georgia Education,” which shows that students who graduate from colleges in the system make around \$14,000 a year more than the average high school graduate can expect to make, and that over the course of a working career, the average graduate of a public college or university in Georgia can expect to earn nearly \$1 million more than a high-school-educated neighbor.

The study, conducted by researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology, analyzed the earnings of nearly 90,000 University System students who graduated between 1993 and 1997, and found that overall the increased earnings resulting from their college degrees added \$1.25 billion to the state’s economy during 1998 – the most recent year for which data was available. These graduates had widespread impact on the state, bringing at least a million dollars per year in additional economic impact to more than half of Georgia’s 159 counties.

The report counted 3,139 Georgia College & State University graduates, whose total wages were over \$100 million and listed the educational value, the amount of the total wages attributed to higher education, as nearly \$40 million. The average wage for the GC&SU graduates listed was nearly \$32,000, and the average educational value was \$12,600.

The report also listed 423 University System graduates employed in Baldwin County in 1998. Their wages totaled almost \$13 million, with \$5 million attributable to higher education. The average wage for these jobs was a little over \$30,000, with around \$12,000 attributable to higher education.

The top three job fields that contributed the most to Georgia's economy in 1998 were business administration and management, nursing, and pre-elementary/early childhood/ kindergarten teaching. The report listed 4,609 business administration and management jobs with wages totaling \$205 million, of which nearly \$84 million was attributed to higher education. Over 6,000 nursing jobs included in the report totaled \$227 million in wages, of which over \$68 million was attributed to higher education. The report also listed 4,518 pre-elementary/ early childhood/ kindergarten teachers that earned a total of \$134 million with over \$55 million attributable to higher education.

Projections from the Georgia Department of Labor indicated that occupations requiring higher education will compose 25 percent of all jobs in 2010. Georgia's top three higher education-related occupations based on numeric employment increases are forecasted to be registered nurses, computer support specialists, and accountants and auditors. The top three higher education-related occupations based on percentage increases will be survey researchers, computer support specialists, and physician's assistants.

Georgia College & State University is Georgia's public liberal arts college.