

# 1 ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER: BENEFITS OF GOING TO COLLEGE

A college **degree** will help you **get higher-paying jobs and get hired faster**. Getting a college degree or **certificate** may be the best thing you can do for your future.

## WHY SHOULD I GO TO COLLEGE?

### GET A BETTER JOB FASTER

Washington state has the 7th fastest growing economy in the U.S. There will be **740,000 job openings** in this state in the next 5 years (Boston Consulting Group & Washington Roundtable, 2016).

By 2020, **70% of ALL jobs** in Washington will require at least some college education (Carnevale, Smith & Strohl, 2015).

**99% of new jobs** between 2010 and 2016 went to people with more than a high school education (Carnevale, Jayasundera, & Gulish, 2016).

Young professionals with a high school diploma are **3 times more likely** to be unemployed than young professionals with a **Bachelor's degree** (Taylor, Fry & Oates, 2014).

## GOOD TO KNOW:

### What you study in college matters.

Some degrees are in higher demand and lead to careers with higher pay. Currently, degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), health and business lead to the highest entry level pay.

## MAKE MORE MONEY

There is a growing, **massive wage gap** between college-educated and less-educated young professionals (Taylor, Fry & Oates, 2014).

Young adults with an **associate's degree** earn an average of **\$5,000 more per year** than those with a high school diploma (Kena et al., 2016).

**91% of "career jobs"** in Washington State (jobs that require higher skills and pay \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year) will be filled by workers with a college degree or some college (Boston Consulting Group & Washington Roundtable, 2016).

## AVERAGE INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Less than High school: **\$26,780**

High school graduate: **\$37,336**

Some college or associate's degree: **\$41,548**

Bachelor's degree: **\$61,828**

Advanced degree (master's professional and doctoral degrees): **\$75,452**

(Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017)

**OCT:** GRADE 9 and 10

