

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 19, 2020

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## Wages, Employment Tied To Educational Achievement

Fort Wayne, IN – Northeast Indiana residents whose highest educational attainment is a high school degree or the equivalent stand to earn at least half a million dollars more during the course of their career than those who do not complete high school, according to a March labor market information report issued by Northeast Indiana Works.

The report, based on Economic Modeling Specialists International data, supports the long-held assertion that the more education a person receives the more money they are likely to earn.

Using current median annual wages tied to typical educational achievement and projecting those wages over a span of 40 years, a person with just a high school degree or the equivalent will earn \$532,480 more than a person with no high school degree.

The income boost continues the more education one receives after high school:

- No high school degree, \$895,240.
- High school degree or the equivalent, \$1,427,720.
- Associate's Degree, \$1,854,520.
- Bachelor's Degree, \$2,387,840.
- Master's Degree, \$2,416,120.
- Doctorate Degree, \$3,923,720.

“While it is true it is unlikely a person will be at the median wage level throughout their career, the analysis clearly demonstrates the importance of postsecondary educational achievement,” Edmond O’Neal, president of Northeast Indiana Works, said.

Moreover, the more education one receives, the more likely they are to be employed. For instance, 92.8 percent of people with a high school degree or the equivalent in northeast Indiana are employed in the civilian labor

force compared to 97 percent of people with a bachelor's degree or higher, according to an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. Just 87.7 percent of people without a high school degree are employed.

Northeast Indiana, according to the analysis, largely exceeds the state and nation in employment tied to educational achievement. For instance, 94 percent of those in northeast Indiana with some college or an associate's degree are employed in the civilian labor force, compared to 93.5 percent for the state and 92.2 percent for the nation.

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**About Northeast Indiana Works:** Northeast Indiana Works, the region's workforce development board, provides public and private financial and employment resources to businesses and individuals for education and skills training to meet the needs of regional industries. The nonprofit sets policy for how public and private funds are utilized to support talent development. It also operates and staffs the 11 county-based WorkOne Northeast career centers in the region. Individuals and companies may access resources and services by visiting or calling WorkOne in their county. To find your local WorkOne, log on to [www.neinworks.org](http://www.neinworks.org)