

Jackson County Higher Education

September 2009

Higher Education Impacts Jackson

- Baker, JCC, and SAU together have:
 - 11,765 Students
 - 1,150 Employees
 - 97 million dollar economic impact
- Higher education plays an important role in attracting firms and workers from other states, research and development spin-offs and other economic development

Higher Education

- 16% of the adults over 25 in Jackson County have a Bachelor degree or higher (JCF Legacy Data)
- In 2006, 26% of Michigan's population aged 25 and older had a Bachelor's degree, ranking Michigan 28th among the states (www.thecenterformichigan.net)
- The U.S. has slipped from 1st to 8th among industrialized nations in degree attainment. This will threaten U.S. competitiveness in the global market (Lumina Foundation)

Higher Education in the Community

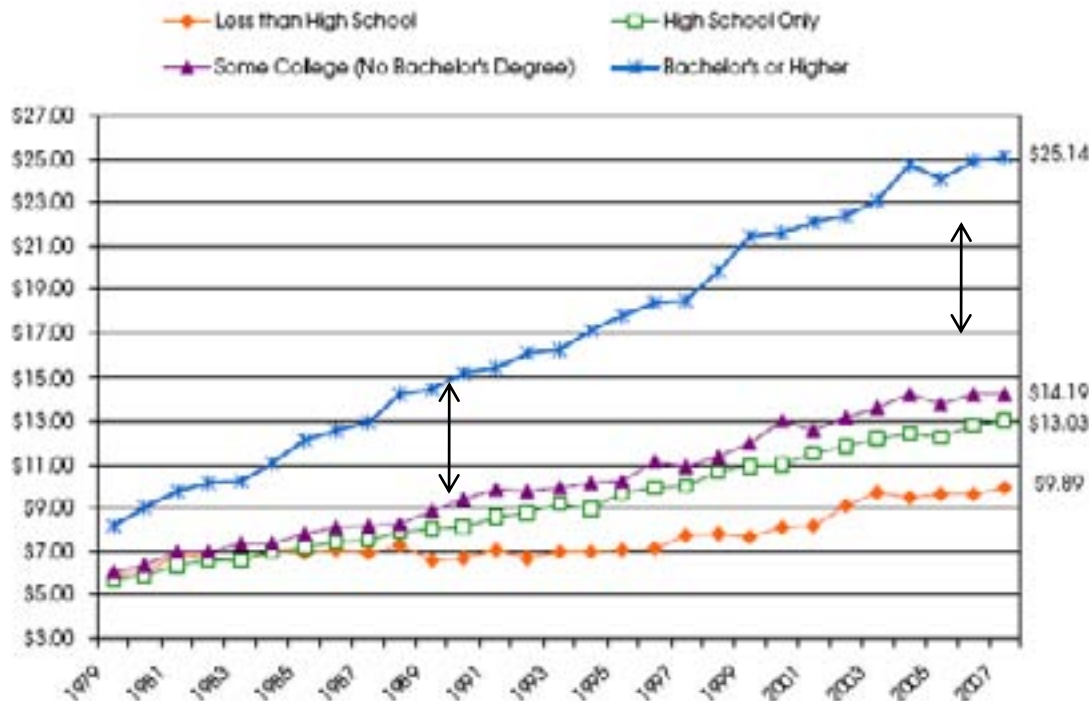
- A higher education:
 - Offers more disposable income
 - Lowers crime rate
 - Attracts innovation and employers seeking highly skilled workers
 - Over 50% of Michigan college grads move out of state-Chicago, Charlotte, Seattle, and San Francisco (annarbor.com)

**What are the benefits of a
college education?**

Answer...

- College graduates earn an average of over \$800,000 more in a lifetime than high school graduates. (U.S. Census 2000)
- U.S. Dept. of Labor reports:
 - Literacy improvement
 - Better decision-makers
 - Willing and able to learn new skills
 - Longer life expectancy; healthier
 - Adaptive to change
 - Community involvement increases
 - More productive workers

Hourly Median Wage by Educational Level in Michigan, 1979-2007
(Not Adjusted for Inflation)



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data
Produced by Michigan League for Human Services

***The more you learn,
the more you earn!***

Notice the
increasing gap

**What are some of the challenges
in higher education today?**

Challenges for Higher Education in Jackson County

- Funding – declining state aid and higher enrollments; Pell Grant
- High Cost of Technology to keep up with student expectations
- Rising expenditures for employee benefits

Challenges for Higher Education in Jackson County

- Parents not wanting to share financial data so students can obtain financial aid
- Students needing developmental classes
 - Math-65-70% at Baker College and JCC
 - Math Summit
- High teenage pregnancy rate contributes to high dropout rates (Jackson County Health Dept.)

Strengths in Jackson County

- Legacy program encourages students to stay local-College Access Center
- Cooperation among the three higher education institutions and other supporting agencies
- Commitment to train students for 21st century employment
- Employers willingness to work with local higher education institutions