

**From:** Ross DeVol (rdevol@milkeninstitute.org) <rdevol@milkeninstitute.org>  
**To:** Stirling, BryanBryanStirling@gov.sc.gov  
**CC:** Soura, ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 2/27/2013 6:12:40 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Milken Institute research proves economic value of higher education

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I appreciate your feedback.

Ross

Ross DeVol  
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**From:** Stirling, Bryan [mailto:BryanStirling@gov.sc.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2013 2:41 PM  
**To:** Ross DeVol (rdevol@milkeninstitute.org)  
**Cc:** Soura, Christian  
**Subject:** RE: Milken Institute research proves economic value of higher education

Thank you very much. I am copying Christian Soura, from this office, also on this email.

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**From:** Ross DeVol ([rdevol@milkeninstitute.org](mailto:rdevol@milkeninstitute.org)) [<mailto:rdevol@milkeninstitute.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2013 4:41 PM  
**To:** Stirling, Bryan  
**Subject:** Milken Institute research proves economic value of higher education

Dear Mr. Stirling,

I'm writing to let you know about a new Milken Institute research report, "A Matter of Degrees: the Effect of Educational Attainment on Regional Economic Prosperity." While it's intuitive that an educated population, good jobs, and prosperity go hand-in-hand, this study proves the strong relationship between education and a region's economic performance. I hope you might share this information with the governor.

We've created a unique data set that links educational attainment and occupational trends over time and by region. The report and the accompanying data site (<http://www.matterofdegrees.net/>) provide a blueprint for economic development leaders/policy makers to boost education.

Get the full report here: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/publications.taf?function=detail&ID=38801395&cat=resrep>

The executive summary is here: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/publications.taf?function=detail&ID=38801398&cat=resrep>

The data site is a mechanism for economic development officials to identify talent gaps, talent centers, and the

education needed to compete in the labor pool. You can examine regional variations in educational attainment as well as trends that may have evolved across decades. The data could provide valuable guidance on workforce advancement, thus supporting strategies to boost investment in education and skills training, and in tracking policy effectiveness.

Other takeaways:

- Each additional year of post-secondary schooling a region's workforce obtains, real GDP per capita and real wages per worker, for all workers, jump by more than 17 percent. In other words, the benefits to regional economies are high by adding better-educated workers.
- Industry composition is also key factor that contributes to differences in educational attainment within occupations, as skilled occupations are highly concentrated in only a handful of industries.
- You can also use our online tools to track opportunities for new programs, or expand existing ones to accommodate the local demand for skilled employment. This could also lead to public/private partnerships that create more industry-aligned coursework.

Please don't hesitate to reach me if you have any questions.

Regards,



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