

College education benefits individuals and communities

By Shaileja Mammen

According to a report entitled “Education Pays: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society,” college education benefits individuals, their families, and the communities and societies to which they belong. The study by the College Board shows that individuals with college educations have higher incomes and lower unemployment and poverty levels. Compared to individuals with less education, there is a higher probability that those who have attended college will receive healthcare benefits from their employers, exercise, and avoid smoking. This leads to healthier lifestyles.

The study shows that individuals with college educations are also more inclined to serve their communities through volunteer work, voting, and blood donation. Those with higher levels of education are also more open to others’ opinions. If the general level of education is high in an area, those with lower levels of education also earn higher incomes, reveals the study. The study clearly emphasizes the role of higher education in creating more opportunities for students and strengthening the country, its economy, and society.

College Board President Gaston Caperton said, “Higher education’s broad payoff, which includes both monetary and non-monetary benefits, should motivate U.S. policymakers to work towards improving access to postsecondary education for all segments of the population.” He added, “It is particularly important that the benefits of higher education receive as much attention as the costs.”