

# CREATIVE CLASS <sup>SM</sup>

## Diplomas Equal Cash

March 22, 2007

We can all remember our parents, high school guidance counselors, and mentors telling us “Go to college; you’ll make more money.” Well, perhaps, they were right on target. According to a [U.S. Census](#) press release last week,

*“Adults with a bachelor’s degree earned an average of \$54,689 in 2005, while those with a high school diploma earned \$29,448. Adults with advanced degrees earn four times (\$79,946) more than those with less than a high school diploma.”*

Other takeaways for the press release include:

- **Nationwide:** 86% of all adults 25 and older have completed high school; 26% have at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Graduation Rates:** High school graduation rates for women are higher than men but more men have a bachelor’s degree than women (29% to 27%).
- **DC on Top of all 50 States** – 49% of all adults 25 and older have a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Take a look at the 5 most educated metros for large, medium and small metros from 2005 American Community Survey. (2006 ACS estimates for regions have not been released).

**Figure 1: Top 5 Most Educated Large Metros (Million + Plus)**

Rank	Metro	BA and Above (%)	Median Household Income
1	Washington, DC	46%	\$74,708
2	San Jose, CA	44%	\$76,478
3	San Francisco, CA	43%	\$65,382
4	Boston, MA	41%	\$62,068
5	Austin, TX	39%	\$50,484

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2005. RFCG Analysis, 2007

**Figure 2: Top 5 Most Education Medium Metros (500K- 1Million)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Metro</b>	<b>BA and Above (%)</b>	<b>Median Household Income</b>
1	Stamford, CT	43%	\$71,633
2	Raleigh, NC	42%	\$53,216
3	Madison, WI	41%	\$53,276
4	Colorado Springs, CO	34%	\$51,146
5	Portland, ME	33%	\$49,833

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2005. RFCG Analysis, 2007.

**Figure 3: Top 5 Most Educated Small Metros (250K-500K)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Metro</b>	<b>BA and Above (%)</b>	<b>Median Household Income</b>
1	Boulder, CO	58%	\$57,502
2	Ann Arbor, MI	52%	\$53,495
3	Fort Collins, CO	43%	\$48,686
4	Durham, NC	42%	\$44,358
5	Trenton, NJ	38%	N/A

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2005. RFCG Analysis, 2007.

You can find a copy of the U.S. Census press release here:

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/009749.html>