

The New York Times

Tuesday, July 5, 2011

Editorial replies: Higher Education and Higher Salaries

To the Editor:

Re. "Even for Cashiers, College Pays Off" (Economic Scene, Sunday Review, June 26):

David Leonhardt makes a compelling case for a college education. Yet he presents college as a primarily private benefit and thus plays into the hands of members of Congress who are intent on cutting student financial aid.

The salary bumps reported for cooks, cashiers, child care workers and others translate into increased local, state and federal tax revenues. College graduates are less likely to consume tax dollars spent on law enforcement, Medicaid and welfare. Those who complete college are much more likely to start new businesses and grow existing ones, sources of jobs our economy so desperately needs.

In short, for our communities and for our nation, college does indeed pay off.

RICHARD GUARASCI

Staten Island, June 26, 2011

The writer, former chairman of the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, is president of Wagner College.