

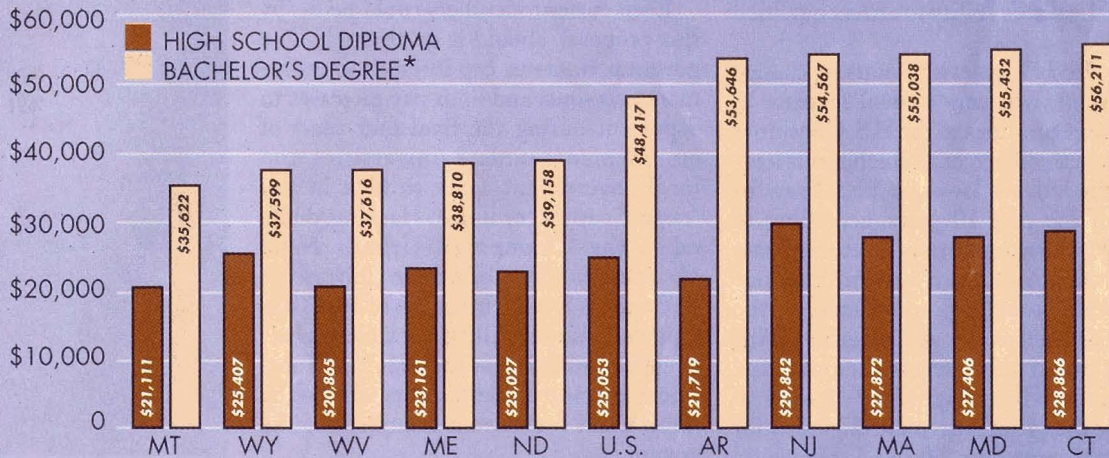
## Counting on higher ed, state by state

In its most recent study of the public and private benefits of higher education, the Institute for Higher Education Policy, with support from the Lumina Foundation for Education, takes a state-by-state measure of the boost postsecondary degrees give individuals and society at large. Among the most convincing statistics are this comparison of average salaries among people age 25 and older, with and without a bachelor's degree.

The data were taken from 2003; states shown are those with the highest and lowest average personal income among people with bachelor's degrees. To see the rest of this comprehensive report, which also shows less unemployment, less reliance on public assistance, better health, increased volunteerism and higher voting participation among college grads, go to [www.ihep.org/Pubs/PDF/InvestmentPayoff2005.pdf](http://www.ihep.org/Pubs/PDF/InvestmentPayoff2005.pdf).

### THE EDUCATION PAYOFF

Average total personal income among people age 25 and older in 2003: states with the highest and lowest average personal income for those with a bachelor's degree.



\*"Those with a bachelor's degree" does not include those who have attained an advanced degree as well.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Current Population Survey (CPS), March 2004 Supplement (2004)