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# DAILY NEWS

## Students deserve college funding

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“In the U.S., student debt amounts to more than \$1.2 trillion,” Taryn Phaneuf noted in a front-page story in last Friday’s Daily News. “The amount students borrowed increased by 18 percent between 2007-08 and 2010-11.”

To put that in perspective, total credit card debt in the U.S. is currently hovering around \$880 billion.

I realize it takes money to make money and this is as true for individuals as it is for companies. On both counts, success is almost always built on solid financial investment.

And in the case of college, the evidence is pretty clear the investment pays off.

“The unemployment rate among college graduates in 2013 was 7.8 percent,” Phaneuf continued. “The rate was more than twice that for those with only a high school diploma.”

Everyone does not need to enroll at a traditional four-year college or university, but everyone should plan on extending his or her formal education beyond high school.

If you choose to attend college, you should have to contribute as much as you can toward earning the education you have elected to pursue. Sacrifice in the short term should always be expected in pursuit of meaningful accomplishment down the road.

At the same time, society has an obligation to make achieving your goal possible without jeopardizing your future economic security. Everyone benefits whenever anyone completes college.

When I attended college back in the 1970s, the cost I incurred was a fraction of what it is for today’s college students. That’s mainly because UT Martin was truly state supported as opposed to receiving the meager assistance most states, including the Commonwealth of Kentucky, now provide their public institutions.

As I have pointed out many times, the current generation has a responsibility to provide the next generation with the same opportunities provided them by the previous generation.

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