

to career advancement rise to 35 percent for those with an Associate’s degree and some college/ no degree. By contrast, earnings of Bachelor’s degree holders in the workforce grow by 50 percent over these years, those with Master’s degree grow by 57 percent, and those with a Doctoral degree grow by 65 percent. By far, the biggest gain over the early years of one’s career involves those with Professional degrees. Workers with Professional degrees earn 100 percent more in their 40’s than they do in their initial years in the workforce.

FIGURE 2: LIFETIME EARNINGS TRAJECTORIES, 2009 DOLLARS

