Ohio's Brain Drain

Ohioans are most likely to move to Florida and new Ohio residents are most likely to come from West Virginia. Nearly 60 percent of working graduates remained in the state in which their bachelor’s degree was earned. Ohio has a program, Grants for Grads, which provides a discounted mortgage-interest rate to recent graduates as an additional incentive to remain in the state. Even Ohio cities are focusing on its young professionals by encouraging them to live in the city. Ohio should further invest in such programs to incentivize college graduates to stay.

How to Stop Brain Drain

The growing divergence between states with highly educated adults is based largely on their ability to attract, retain, and cluster highly educated and skilled workers. Nationally, examples of efforts include tax incentives and grants. The programs require graduates to remain in the state for a set period of time or to reside in potential development communities to encourage economic innovation and population diversification. A study found that 51 percent of millennials that move do so for employment. If Ohio wants to increase its educated workforce, it needs to expand employment opportunities for them.