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Reassessing Education and the American Dream

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As the start of another school year arrives, millions of Americans will head off to college with the dream of getting a degree that will help them achieve economic security. But such dreams will not become reality for everyone.

Historical structures and outcomes undercut the long-held assumption that a good education offers a meaningful pathway out of poverty and second-class citizenship for people of color. In fact, **new research shows** that the higher people of color go up the socioeconomic ladder, the wider the gap in their earnings relative to white people.