Our Opinion: Graduation is the first step
By IMPERIAL VALLEY STAFF

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Anyone who attended a school graduation in recent weeks probably heard that it was “not the end but the beginning.”

Yes, it is a tired cliché, but it certainly is true. Even for those graduating from a university, it may be the end of schooling, but it is the start to a professional career and another phase in life.

For most other students, graduation should mean moving on to even more education, even more enlightenment, even more training. The hard work may just be starting. And that hard work may take some students away from the Imperial Valley, at least for a few years.

One big thing that holds back the Valley from being what it could be is many parents’ reluctance to let their children go away to school. Breaking up the family by having a member go to a college or university in San Diego, Los Angeles or Palo Alto, even temporarily, is seen as going against the culture of many area residents.

“They can get a good education here and still be with their family,” many Imperial Valley parents will argue regarding their children.

The truth is our local institutions of higher learning have limited majors and limited opportunities. For people to get the training to become doctors, lawyers, engineers and various other professions, they have to go elsewhere for education and training, for anywhere from a couple to several years.

Yes, some don’t come back when they are done with such learning and training, but many do. Many of our current batch of doctors, other health care professionals, lawyers, judges, agricultural scientists and other professionals went away to school and came back home to serve their community. Some of those who ran in the election this week went out of our area for a few years to get their schooling and see how things operate somewhere else, then returned and are giving back to their community. Getting such a different perspective, then bringing home ideas from that tenure elsewhere can be invaluable to our area.

Yes, the hard-working, blue-collar people are the core of the Valley, as are all those who graduated from Imperial Valley College and San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus.

But the ones who can really make this area shine are those who get the professional training somewhere else and come home to live in, and serve, the Imperial Valley they love.

THE ISSUE:

Continuing education after high school graduation.

WE SAY:

The Valley needs young folks to go to college and bring the skills and knowledge back.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

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