

Overview Fact Sheet

The Colorado Community College System plays a significant role in the local economy and is a sound investment from multiple perspectives. Students benefit from improved lifestyles and increased earnings. Taxpayers benefit from a larger economy and lower social costs. Finally, the community as a whole benefits from increased job and investment opportunities, higher business revenues, greater availability of public funds, and an eased tax burden.

ECONOMIC GROWTH ANALYSIS

Total Effect

- The total economic impact resulting from the operations of our colleges, new monies brought into the state by non-resident students, and the increased output of the workforce, amounts to \$3.01 billion per year, or roughly 55,800 average wage jobs.

College Operations Effect

- The economy of our Service Area annually receives roughly **\$221.888 million** in income due to college operations. This is a conservative figure adjusted to account for monies that leave the economy or are withdrawn from the economy in support of the colleges
- Added income attributable to our colleges and their students amounts to \$3.01 billion each year.

Productivity Effect

- The state economy embodies an estimated **20.889 million** credits that have accumulated over the past 30-year period as thousands of former students from our colleges (completers and non-completers) enter the workforce year after year.
- College skills translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of credits from our colleges in the workforce amounts to around **\$2.79 billion** each year.

Student Spending Effect

- An estimated **4%** of our colleges' students come from outside the state, bringing with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the local economy.
- The expenditures of the out-of-state students of our colleges generate roughly **\$360 thousand** in added income in the state each year.

INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

Student Perspective

- Throughout his or her working career, the average student's discounted lifetime income increases by **\$3.10** for every dollar invested in our colleges.
- The students of our colleges enjoy an 11.0% average annual return on their educational investment.
- Our colleges served **151,001** students and employed **5,635** people in AY 2009-10.
- Education increases lifetime income. The average income at the career midpoint of someone with an associate's degree in Colorado is **\$49,900**, 35% more than a student with a high school diploma.

Taxpayer Perspective

- State and local governments allocated **\$107.348 million** in support of our colleges in FY 2009-10.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of **\$1.70** over the course of students' working careers (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided costs).
- State and local governments see an inflation adjusted rate of return of **5.9%** on this support. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

Social Perspective

- Higher earnings that accrue to students of our colleges and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Colorado by about **\$375.806 million** each year.
- Colorado will see avoided social costs amounting to **\$20.93 million** per year due to the students of our colleges, including savings associated with improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.