

SOCIETY'S INVESTMENT

The Economic Value of Lamar Community College | May 2017

Benefits created by Lamar extend to far more people than just its students. As students and employers enjoy higher earnings and increased output, society as a whole benefits from an expanded economy and a range of savings associated with the students' improved quality of life.

LAMAR RAISES PROSPERITY IN COLORADO

- Students earn more because of the skills and qualifications they acquire at Lamar. Further, employers earn more because the added skills of the students they hire make their businesses more productive.
- Together, increases in earnings and business output stimulate corresponding increases in earnings and employment throughout the state. Over their working lives, Lamar's FY 2015-16 student population will increase the state's economic base by **\$141.3 million**.

LAMAR IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

- As Lamar students achieve higher levels of education, they are statistically more likely to develop good health habits. This leads to a present value of **\$2.5 million** in savings to students and to society as a whole for medical treatments related to smoking, alcoholism, obesity, drug abuse, and mental disorders.
- Students enjoy better employment opportunities as a result of their education at Lamar. This makes them less likely to require earnings assistance and less likely to commit crimes. These effects translate to a present value of **\$22.4 thousand** in unemployment-related savings and **\$733,712** in law enforcement savings to society as a whole.
- Altogether, savings to society amount to a present value of **\$3.3 million**, equal to the sum of avoided costs related to health, crime, and unemployment.

BENEFITS TO SOCIETY OUTWEIGH SOCIAL COSTS

- In FY 2015-16, society invested **\$14.8 million** in Lamar educations. This includes all Lamar expenditures, all student expenditures, and all student opportunity costs. In return for this investment, society as a whole will receive a present value of **\$144.6 million** in benefits, the sum of the increased economic base and social savings that Lamar's 2015-16 student population will generate in the state.
- For every dollar spent on Lamar educations, society as a whole in Colorado will receive a cumulative value of **\$9.70** in benefits, for as long as Lamar's 2015-16 students remain active in the state workforce.

PRESENT VALUE OF SOCIAL SAVINGS

