

Overview Fact Sheet

Western Nebraska Community College 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.

WNCC Helps State & Local Economy

- The WNCC Service Area economy received roughly **\$11.9 million** in income due to WNCC operations and capital spending in FY 2007.

In 2007, the service area workforce embodied 489,200 credits of past and present WNCC training.

- About 9% of WNCC's students came from outside the service area, bringing with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the local economy. The expenditures of WNCC's out-of-area students generated roughly **\$4.1 million** in added income in the WNCC Service Area.
- WNCC activities encourage new business, assist existing business, and create long-term economic growth. The college enhances worker skills and provides customized training to local business and industry. It is estimated that in FY 2007 the WNCC Service Area workforce embodied about **489,200** credits of past and present WNCC training.
- WNCC skills translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of WNCC credits in the workforce amounted to **\$84.8 million** in FY 2007.

WNCC Leverages Taxpayer Dollars

- The state and local community will see avoided social costs amounting to **\$14** per year for every credit earned by WNCC students, including savings associated with improved health, lower crime costs, and reduced welfare and unemployment. This translates to **\$716,500** in avoided costs to the State of Nebraska each year as long as students are in the workforce.
- Students benefit from higher earnings, thereby expanding the tax base and reducing the burden on state and local taxpayers. In the aggregate, WNCC students generate about **\$7.2 million** annually in higher earnings due to their WNCC education.

- WNCC yields a return on government investment. State and local government allocated around **\$18.8 million** in support of WNCC in fiscal year 2007. For every \$1 of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of **\$1.50** over the course of students' working careers (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided social costs).
- State and local government see a rate of return of **6%** on their support for WNCC. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

WNCC Helps Students Earn More

- A total of **21,054** credit and non-credit students attended the college in FY 2007. About 83% of these students stay in the service area initially after they leave college, contributing to the local economy.

Students see their annual income increase by \$137 per year for every credit completed at WNCC.

- Education increases lifetime income. The average annual income of a one-year certificate graduate at the midpoint of his or her career is **\$25,800**, or **82%** more than someone without a high school diploma, and **17%** more than a student with a high school diploma. The average income at the career midpoint of someone with an associate's degree is **\$30,600**, or **115%** more than someone without a high school diploma, and **38%** more than a student with a high school diploma.
- WNCC students enjoy an average annual income increase of **\$137** for every credit completed.
- Throughout his or her working career, the average WNCC student's discounted lifetime income (i.e., future values expressed in present value terms) increases by **\$7.40** for every \$1 invested (tuition, fees, books, and wages given up to attend).
- Students enjoy an attractive **23%** rate of return on their WNCC educational investment, recovering all costs (including wages foregone) in 6 years.