

Our Illinois Community Colleges: An Economic Fact Sheet

Investing in Illinois community colleges pays. Here's how.

- *Illinois community colleges add skills to our workforce and boost the competitiveness of our businesses.*
- *Illinois community college graduates generate Billions of dollars in local, state, and federal tax revenues.*
- *An Illinois community college education increases earnings for workers.*
- *As major employers and business entities, Illinois community colleges generate Billions of dollars in local sales and wages and more than 55,000 jobs.*

Illinois community colleges add skills to our workforce and boost the competitiveness of our businesses.

- Eight out of ten Illinois employers hired a community college student at some point over the past 10 years (81.2%).
- Three out of ten Illinois workers participated in credit courses at an Illinois community college during the past 10 years (29.5%).
- Statewide, there was a 62.9% increase in students who completed an Illinois community college program from 1996 to 2006. The four career and technical program areas with the largest completer gains were Protective Services, Construction Trades, Health Professions and Related Sciences, and Precision Production Trades.
- The percentage of Illinois community college enrollees intending to prepare for college transfer increased from 25.8% to 32.9% between 1996 and 2006.

Illinois community college graduates generate Billions of dollars in local, state, and federal tax revenues.

- Over the past 10 years, Illinois community college students paid an estimated \$3.3 Billion in state taxes and \$12.8 Billion in federal taxes.
- Illinois community college students who graduated in 1995 paid an estimated \$168 Million in state taxes and \$650 Million in federal taxes over the past 10 years.
- More than 9 out of 10 Illinois community college graduates remain in Illinois after completing college and contribute to the state's economy.



An Illinois community college education increases earnings for workers.

- Taking courses at an Illinois community college pays off for workers. On average, all students who completed their Illinois community college education in FY05 (exiters) experienced a 31% increase in earnings over their pre-enrollment wages.¹
- Graduates realize even greater benefits. A 25-year-old Illinois community college program graduate can expect a total lifetime earnings gain of \$541,115. This is 55% more than the projected total lifetime earnings of \$1.2 Million if they had not completed an Illinois community college program.²
- Illinois community college graduates employed full-time averaged \$32,369 in annual earnings after completing their programs of study.³ This represents about 250% of the state's minimum wage.

As major employers and business entities, Illinois community colleges generate Billions of dollars in local sales and wages and more than 55,000 jobs.

- In FY05, Illinois community colleges directly employed 13,840 full-time and 19,397 part-time staff with a total payroll of \$1.1 Billion in salaries and benefits.
- In addition to wages and salaries, Illinois community colleges reported \$464 Million in operating and capital expenditures. These monies produced another \$332 Million in output for a total economic impact of \$796 Million and an estimated additional 8,683 jobs.
- The total economic output of the community colleges on the Illinois economy in FY05 was \$2.55 Billion and 55,407 jobs.

For more information, please contact:

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Sources: Illinois Community College Board data, individual community college surveys (2007), Northern Illinois University Economic Impact Study (2007).

¹ This figure measures the change in earnings between pre-enrollment and post-completion and represents graduates and individuals who did not re-enroll in FY06.

² Assumes an annual average salary of \$32,369 over 30 years with annual increases of 3%.

³ This includes graduates reporting four continuous quarters of full-time earnings above minimum wage.



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