Austin 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.

**ACC Helps State & Local Economy**

- The ACC Service Area economy receives roughly $110.3 million in regional income annually due to ACC operations and capital spending.

  > The regional economy is $2.3 billion stronger due to ACC.

- ACC students come to the area from outside regional boundaries, bringing with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the local economy.

- ACC 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 the ACC Service Area workforce embodies about 5.5 million credit hours of past and present ACC training.

- ACC skills embodied in the regional workforce where former students are employed increase local income by $1.8 billion. Associated indirect effects increase income by another $466.5 million.

- Altogether, the ACC Service Area economy annually receives roughly $2.3 billion in income due to past and present efforts of ACC.

**ACC Leverages Taxpayer Dollars**

- The state and local community will see avoided social costs amounting to $24 per year for every credit earned by ACC students, including savings associated with improved health, lower crime costs, and reduced welfare and unemployment. This translates to $12.5 million in avoided costs to the State of Texas 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, ACC students generate about $108.9 million annually in higher earnings due to their ACC education.

- ACC yields a return on government investment. State and local government allocated around $122.4 million in support of ACC in fiscal year 2007. For every $1 of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of $3.20 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 13% on their support for ACC. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

**ACC Helps Students Earn More**

- A total of 66,024 credit and non-credit students attended the college in FY 2007. About 80% of these students stay in the region initially after they leave college, contributing to the local economy.

  > Students see their annual income increase by $209 per year for every credit completed at ACC.

- Education increases lifetime income. The average annual income of a one-year certificate graduate at the midpoint of his or her career is $39,400, 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 $46,700, or 116% more than someone without a high school diploma, and 39% more than a student with a high school diploma.

- ACC students enjoy an average annual income increase of $209 for every credit completed.

- Throughout his or her working career, the average ACC student’s discounted lifetime income (i.e., future values expressed in present value terms) increases by $7.20 for every $1 invested (tuition, fees, books, and wages given up to attend).

- Students enjoy an attractive 22% rate of return on their ACC educational investment, recovering all costs (including wages foregone) in 7 years.