

Overview Fact Sheet

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 mil-**

lion 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.