

TAXPAYERS' INVESTMENT

The Economic Value of Arapahoe Community College | May 2017

Students and society as a whole enjoy a range of benefits due to their educational investment in ACC. A portion of these benefits accrues to state and local taxpayers in the form of higher tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services.

ACC INCREASES TAX REVENUE

- Approximately **97%** of ACC's students remain in Colorado upon completing their educational goals. As students earn more, they pay higher taxes. Employers also pay higher taxes through their increased output and spending.
- Over the students' working lives, state and local government in Colorado will collect a present value of **\$248.1 million** in the form of higher tax receipts.

ACC REDUCES GOVERNMENT COSTS

- ACC students who achieve higher levels of education are statistically less likely to have poor health habits, commit crimes, or claim welfare or unemployment benefits.
- The improved lifestyles of students result in a reduced demand for government-supported services. Better health leads to reduced health care costs. Reduced crime leads to a reduced burden on the criminal justice system. Further, increased employability leads to fewer claims for welfare and unemployment benefits.
- As a result, taxpayers in the state of Colorado will see a present value of **\$10.3 million** in savings to government over the students' working careers.

ACC IS A SOLID INVESTMENT FOR STATE AND LOCAL TAXPAYERS

- In FY 2015-16, state and local taxpayers in Colorado paid **\$18 million** to support the operations of ACC.
- For every \$1 of public money spent on ACC, taxpayers receive a cumulative return of **\$14.30** over the course of students' working lives in the form of higher tax receipts and public sector savings.
- Taxpayers see an average annual internal rate of return of **32.5%** on their investment in ACC. This return compares favorably with the 0.7% discount rate used by the federal government to appraise long-term investments.

SUMMARY OF THE TAXPAYER INVESTMENT



14.3
Benefit-cost ratio



32.5%
Rate of return