

# SOCIETY'S INVESTMENT

The Economic Value of the Colorado Community College System | October 2017

Benefits created by CCCS colleges extend to far more people than just their students. As students and employers enjoy higher earnings and increased output, society as a whole benefits from an expanded economy and a range of savings associated with the students' improved quality of life.

## CCCS COLLEGES RAISE PROSPERITY IN COLORADO

- Students earn more because of the skills and qualifications they acquire at CCCS colleges. Further, employers earn more because the added skills of the students they hire make their businesses more productive.
- Together, increases in earnings and business output stimulate corresponding increases in earnings and employment throughout the state. Over their working lives, CCCS colleges' FY 2015-16 student population will increase the state's economic base by **\$14.8 billion**.

## CCCS COLLEGES IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

- As CCCS colleges' students achieve higher levels of education, they are statistically more likely to develop good health habits. This leads to a present value of **\$203.6 million** in savings to students and to society as a whole for medical treatments related to smoking, alcoholism, obesity, drug abuse, and mental disorders.
- Students enjoy better employment opportunities as a result of their education at CCCS colleges. This makes them less likely to require earnings assistance and less likely to commit crimes. These effects translate to a present value of **\$2 million** in unemployment-related savings and **\$61.4 million** in law enforcement savings to society as a whole.
- Altogether, savings to society amount to a present value of **\$267 million**, equal to the sum of avoided costs related to health, crime, and unemployment.

## BENEFITS TO SOCIETY OUTWEIGH SOCIAL COSTS

- For every dollar spent on CCCS educations, society as a whole in Colorado will receive a cumulative value of **\$11.30** in benefits, for as long as CCCS colleges' 2015-16 students remain active in the state workforce.
- In FY 2015-16, society invested **\$1.3 billion**, which includes all CCCS college and system expenditures and all student expenditures and opportunity costs, in CCCS educations.
- In return for this investment, society as a whole will receive a present value of **\$15 billion** in benefits, the sum of the increased economic base and social savings that CCCS colleges' 2015-16 student population will generate in the state.

## PRESENT VALUE OF SOCIAL SAVINGS

