Students and society as a whole enjoy a range of benefits due to their educational investment in RRCC. 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.

**RRCC INCREASES TAX REVENUE**

- Approximately 86% of RRCC’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 $140 million in the form of higher tax receipts.

**RRCC REDUCES GOVERNMENT COSTS**

- RRCC 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 $8.6 million in savings to government over the students’ working careers.

**RRCC IS A SOLID INVESTMENT FOR STATE AND LOCAL TAXPAYERS**

- In FY 2015-16, state and local taxpayers in Colorado paid $27.9 million to support the operations of RRCC.
- For every $1 of public money spent on RRCC, taxpayers receive a cumulative return of $5.30 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 15.7% on their investment in RRCC. 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**

- **Benefit-cost ratio**: 5.3
- **Rate of return**: 15.7%