

# Overview Fact Sheet

*Western Nebraska 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.*

## INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

### Student Perspective

- Education increases lifetime income. The average income at the career midpoint of someone with an associate's degree in the WNCC Service Area is **\$38,300**.

**Students enjoy a 19.9% rate of return on their investment in WNCC.**

- The average WNCC student's income increases by **\$6.80** for every dollar invested in WNCC.
- Students enjoy an attractive **19.9%** average rate of return on their WNCC educational investment, recovering all costs in 7.6 years.

### Social Perspective

- Higher earnings of WNCC students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Nebraska by about **\$10.1 million** each year.
- Nebraska will see avoided social costs amounting to **\$579,100** per year due to improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.

### Taxpayer Perspective

- State and local governments allocated approximately **\$19.2 million** in support of WNCC in FY 2010-11.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a return of **\$1.00** (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided costs).
- State and local governments see an annual rate of return of **3.1%** on their support for WNCC.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH ANALYSIS

### College Operations Effect

- The WNCC Service Area economy annually receives **\$14.5 million** in income due to WNCC operations.

### Student Spending Effect

- The expenditures of WNCC's non-local students generate roughly **\$4.3 million** in added income in the WNCC Service Area each year.

**Added income attributable to the accumulation of WNCC skills amounts to \$156.8 million each year.**

### Productivity Effect

- The WNCC Service Area economy embodies an estimated **1.5 million** credits that have accumulated over the past 30-year period as thousands of former WNCC students enter the workforce.
- WNCC credits translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of WNCC credits in the workforce amounts to around **\$156.8 million** each year.

### Total Effect

- The total annual impacts on the WNCC Service Area sum to **\$175.6 million**.
- The total impact represents **5.3%** of the total regional economy and roughly **4,240** average wage jobs.