

Overview Fact Sheet

Seattle Community Colleges play a significant role in the local economy and are 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.

ECONOMIC GROWTH ANALYSIS

College Operations Effect

- The King County economy annually receives roughly **\$106 million** in income due to SCCD operations. This is a conservative figure adjusted to account for monies that leave the economy or are withdrawn from the economy in support of the district.

Student Spending Effect

- Approximately **5.9%** of students attending SCCD are international students. These students bring with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the local economy.
- The expenditures of SCCD's international students generate roughly **\$19.7 million** in added income in King County each year.

Productivity Effect

- The current King County economy embodies an estimated **5.6 million** credits that have accumulated over the past 30-year period as thousands of former SCCD students (completers and non-completers) enter the workforce year after year.
- SCCD skills translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of SCCD credits in the workforce amounts to around **\$949.5 million** each year.

Altogether, the average annual added income due to the activities of SCCD and their former students equals \$1.1 billion.

Total Effect

- Altogether, the average annual added income due to the activities of SCCD and their former students equals **\$1.1 billion**. This is approximately equal to **0.7%** of the total King County economy.

INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

Student Perspective

- SCCD served **51,919** students in the 2009-10 reporting year.
- Education increases lifetime income. The average income at the career midpoint of someone with an associate's degree in King County is **\$60,600**, 35% more than a student with a high school diploma.
- Throughout his or her working career, the average SCCD student's discounted lifetime income increases by **\$6.90** for every dollar invested in SCCD.
- Students enjoy an attractive **21.6%** average rate of return on their SCCD educational investment, recovering all costs (including tuition, fees, and forgone wages) in 6.9 years.

Social Perspective

- Higher earnings of SCCD students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Washington by about **\$158.4 million** each year.
- Washington will see avoided social costs amounting to **\$5.3 million** per year due to SCCD students, including savings associated with improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.

Taxpayer Perspective

- State government allocated approximately **\$109.4 million** in support of SCCD in FY 2009-10.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of **\$1.90** over the course of students' working careers (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided costs).
- SCCD generates a **7.0%** return on investment to state and local taxpayers. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.