

# FACT SHEET

*Demonstrating the Economic Value of Wharton County Junior College*

DECEMBER 2014

*Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) creates a significant positive impact on the business community and generates a return on investment to its major stakeholder groups—students, society, and taxpayers. Using a two-pronged approach that involves an economic impact analysis and an investment analysis, the study calculates the benefits to each of these groups. Results of the analysis reflect Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13.*

## INCOME CREATED BY WCJC IN FY 2012-13 (ADDED INCOME)

**\$30.7 MILLION**

Operations spending impact

**\$755.6 THOUSAND**

Impact of student spending

**\$171.4 MILLION**

Alumni impact

**\$202.9 MILLION**

Total impact

## IMPACT ON BUSINESS COMMUNITY

During the analysis year, WCJC and its students added **\$202.9 MILLION** in income to the WCJC Service Area economy, approximately equal to **0.8%** of the Gross Regional Product. The economic impacts of WCJC break down as follows:

### *Operations spending impact*

- WCJC employed 927 full-time and part-time employees in FY 2012-13. Payroll amounted to **\$27.3 MILLION**, much of which was spent in the WCJC Service Area to purchase groceries, clothing, and other household goods and services. The college spent another **\$17.7 MILLION** to support its day-to-day operations.
- The net impact of college payroll and expenses in the WCJC Service Area during the analysis year was approximately **\$30.7 MILLION** in added income.

### *Impact of student spending*

- Around 11% of students attending WCJC originated from outside the region. Some of these students relocated to the WCJC Service Area and spent money on groceries, transportation, rent, and so on at regional businesses.
- The expenditures of students who relocated to the region during the analysis year added approximately **\$755.6 THOUSAND** in income to the economy.

### *Alumni impact*

- Over the years, students have studied at WCJC and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly-acquired skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in the WCJC Service Area.
- The accumulated contribution of former students currently employed in the state workforce amounted to **\$171.4 MILLION** in added income during the analysis year.

## JOB EQUIVALENTS BASED ON INCOME

Job equivalents are a measure of the average-wage jobs that a given amount of income can potentially support. They are calculated by dividing income by the average income per worker in the state. Based on the added income created by WCJC, the job equivalents are as follows:

Operations spending impact = **975** job equivalents

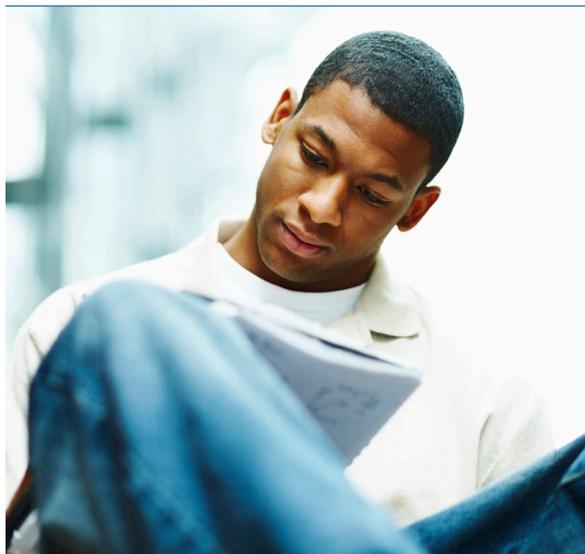
Impact of student spending = **18** job equivalents

Alumni impact = **3,078** job equivalents

Overall, the added income created by WCJC and its students supported **4,071** job equivalents.

## FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT BY...

<b>STUDENTS</b>	<p><b>\$4.00</b></p> <p>Gained in lifetime income for STUDENTS</p>
<b>SOCIETY</b>	<p><b>\$19.30</b></p> <p>Gained in added state income and social savings for SOCIETY</p>
<b>TAXPAYERS</b>	<p><b>\$8.60</b></p> <p>Gained in added taxes and public sector savings for TAXPAYERS</p>



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT TO STUDENTS, SOCIETY, AND TAXPAYERS

### Student perspective

- WCJC's 2012-13 students paid a total of **\$22.3 MILLION** to cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and supplies. They also forwent **\$57.3 MILLION** in money that they would have earned had they been working instead of learning.
- In return for the monies invested in the colleges, students will receive a present value of **\$315.9 MILLION** in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of **\$4.00** in higher future income for every \$1 that students invest in their education. The average annual return for students is **15.2%**.

### Social perspective

- Society as a whole in Texas will receive a present value of **\$2.0 BILLION** in added state income over the course of the students' working lives. Society will also benefit from **\$26.8 MILLION** in present value social savings related to reduced crime, lower unemployment, and increased health and well-being across the state.
- For every dollar that society spent on WCJC educations during the analysis year, society will receive a cumulative value of **\$19.30** in benefits, for as long as the 2012-13 student population at WCJC remains active in the state workforce.

### Taxpayer perspective

- In FY 2012-13, state and local taxpayers in Texas paid **\$16.7 MILLION** to support the operations of WCJC. The net present value of the added tax revenue stemming from the students' higher lifetime incomes and the increased output of businesses amounts to **\$135.2 MILLION** in benefits to taxpayers. Savings to the public sector add another **\$8.0 MILLION** in benefits due to a reduced demand for government-funded services in Texas.
- Dividing benefits to taxpayers by the associated costs yields a **8.6** benefit-cost ratio, i.e., every \$1 in costs returns \$8.60 in benefits. The average annual return on investment for taxpayers is **20.5%**.