

Overview Fact Sheet

Luzerne County 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

- LCCC served **9,931** credit students and **5,779** non-credit students in the 2008-09 reporting year.
- Education increases lifetime income. The average income at the career midpoint of someone with an associate's degree in Luzerne County is **\$39,000**, 36% more than a student with a high school diploma.

Students enjoy a 15.8% rate of return on their investment in LCCC.

- Throughout his or her working career, the average LCCC student's lifetime income increases by **\$5.20** (present value) for every dollar invested in LCCC.
- Students enjoy an attractive **15.8%** average rate of return on their LCCC educational investment, recovering all costs (including tuition, fees, and forgone wages) in 9.4 years.

Social Perspective

- Higher earnings of LCCC students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Pennsylvania by about **\$40.9 million** each year.
- Pennsylvania will see avoided social costs amounting to **\$1.9 million** per year due to LCCC students, including savings associated with improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.

Taxpayer Perspective

- State and local governments allocated approximately **\$23.2 million** in support of LCCC in FY 2008-09.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of **\$3.00** over the course of students' working careers (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided costs).

- State and local governments see a rate of return of **9.6%** on their support for LCCC. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

ECONOMIC GROWTH ANALYSIS

College Operations Effect

- The Luzerne County economy annually receives roughly **\$26.1 million** in income due to LCCC 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 This is a conservative figure adjusted to account for monies that leave the economy or are withdrawn from the economy in support of the college.

Added income attributable to the accumulation of LCCC skills amounts to \$190.7 million each year.

Student Spending Effect

- LCCC estimates that approximately **27%** of its students come from outside the region, bringing with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the local economy.
- The expenditures of LCCC's non-local students generate roughly **\$37,100** in added income in Luzerne County each year.

Productivity Effect

- The current Luzerne County economy embodies an estimated **1.3 million** credits that have accumulated over the past thirty-year period as thousands of former LCCC students (completers and non-completers) enter the workforce year after year.
- LCCC skills translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of LCCC credits in the workforce amounts to around **\$190.7 million** each year.