

# Overview Fact Sheet

*Walla Walla 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

- WWCC served **12,047** 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 the WWCC Service Area is **\$37,700**, 35% more than a student with a high school diploma.

**Students enjoy a 38.8% rate of return on their investment in WWCC.**

- Throughout his or her working career, the average WWCC student's discounted lifetime income increases by **\$11.20** for every dollar invested in WWCC.
- Students enjoy an attractive **38.8%** average rate of return on their WWCC educational investment, recovering all costs (including tuition, fees, and forgone wages) in 4.2 years.

### Social Perspective

- Higher earnings of WWCC students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Washington by about **\$42.5 million** each year.
- Washington will see avoided social costs amounting to **\$1.9 million** per year due to WWCC students, including savings associated with improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.

### Taxpayer Perspective

- State and local governments allocated approximately **\$21.1 million** in support of WWCC in FY 2009-10.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of **\$3.20** 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 **12.9%** on their support for WWCC. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH ANALYSIS

### College Operations Effect

- The WWCC Service Area economy annually receives roughly **\$28.6 million** in income due to WWCC 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 This is a conservative figure adjusted to account for monies that leave the economy or are withdrawn from the economy in support of the college.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 WWCC skills amounts to \$265.5 million each year.**

### Student Spending Effect

- WWCC estimates that approximately **22%** of its students come from outside the region, bringing with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the local economy.
- The expenditures of WWCC's non-local students generate roughly **\$4 million** in added income in the WWCC Service Area each year.

### Productivity Effect

- The current WWCC Service Area economy embodies an estimated **2.2 million** credits that have accumulated over the past 30-year period as thousands of former WWCC students (completers and non-completers) enter the workforce year after year.
- WWCC skills translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of WWCC credits in the workforce amounts to around **\$265.5 million** each year.