

Overview Fact Sheet

Columbia Gorge 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

- CGCC served **4,972** students in the 2010-11 reporting year.
- Education increases lifetime income. The average income at the career midpoint of someone with an associate's degree in the CGCC Service Area is **\$31,600**.

Students enjoy a 22.1% rate of return on their investment in CGCC.

- The average CGCC student's income increases by **\$8.40** for every dollar invested in CGCC.
- Students enjoy an attractive **22.1%** average rate of return on their CGCC educational investment, recovering all costs in 7.1 years.

Social Perspective

- Higher earnings of CGCC students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Oregon by about **\$4.8 million** each year.
- Oregon will see avoided social costs amounting to **\$247,600** per year due to improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.

Taxpayer Perspective

- State and local governments allocated approximately **\$7.4 million** in support of CGCC 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 **3.2%** on their support for CGCC.

ECONOMIC GROWTH ANALYSIS

College Operations Effect

- The CGCC Service Area economy annually receives **\$6.1 million** in income due to CGCC operations.

Added income attributable to the accumulation of CGCC skills amounts to \$36.9 million each year.

Student Spending Effect

- CGCC estimates that approximately **28%** of its students come from outside the region.
- The expenditures of CGCC's non-local students generate roughly **\$308,600** in added income in the CGCC Service Area each year.

Productivity Effect

- The CGCC Service Area economy embodies an estimated **372,500** credits that have accumulated over the past 30-year period as thousands of former CGCC students enter the workforce.
- CGCC credits translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of CGCC credits in the workforce amounts to around **\$36.9 million** each year.

Total Effect

- The total annual impacts on the CGCC Service Area sum to **\$43.4 million**.
- The total impact represents **2.7%** of the total regional economy and roughly **1,270** average wage jobs.