



# THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF **DURHAM TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S** Early Childhood Education Program



The Early Childhood Education program<sup>1</sup> was established in 1978. In FY 2019-20, Durham Tech enrolled 286 students in the program. Of these students, 19 graduated with a certificate and 23 graduated with an associate degree.



THE DURHAM TECH SERVICE REGION, NC

# **CAREER OUTLOOK**

The Early Childhood Education program can lead students into a number of occupations, which may include childcare workers; preschool teachers, except special education; and teaching assistants, except postsecondary. Many of the Early Childhood Education program students will enter the Durham Tech Service Region<sup>2</sup> workforce.

Using the regional number of annual job openings for these occupations (924) and subtracting the FY 2019-20 Durham Tech completers that may fill these openings (42), we arrive at a gap of 882 job openings.3 There are 482 unique job postings at the associate degree or below for these occupations in the Durham Tech Service Region. The top three posting companies are: Wake County Public School System; KinderCare Learning Centers; and Durham Public Schools.

## **ALUMNI IMPACT**

Former students of Durham Tech's Early Childhood Education program added \$1.8 million in income to the Durham Tech Service Region economy in FY 2019-20. This figure represents the increased wages collected by former students active today in the regional workforce as a direct result of their education, the increased output of businesses that employ these students, and the multiplier effects that occur.

#### PROGRAM TO OCCUPATION MAPPING MEASURES IN THE **DURHAM TECH SERVICE REGION**

Number of occupations	12
Jobs (2020)	17,043
Projected avg. job growth (2020-2029)	+0.9%
Annual openings (2020)	924
Median annual wage (2020)*	\$37,634

<sup>\*</sup> The median annual wage reflects all award levels.

## ALUMNI LIFETIME EARNINGS INCREASE AND IMPACT

Lifetime earnings increase per completer

\$182.0 thousand

Total alumni impact in FY 2019-20







<sup>1</sup> The Early Childhood Education program is defined by the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: Early Childhood Education & Teaching (13.1210).

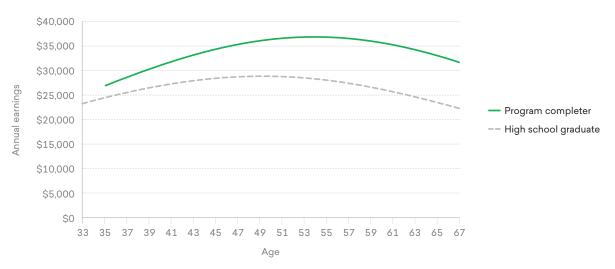
For the purposes of this analysis, the Durham Tech Service Region is defined as 43 ZIP codes in Durham, Orange,

For the purposes of this analysis, only Durham Tech completers were considered when comparing to annual openings.

## STUDENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

To earn a degree or certificate in the program, students experience costs in the form of tuition and fees, books and supplies, and the opportunity cost of attending school instead of working. In return for this investment, students can earn higher wages. For every dollar students invest in their education in the program, they will receive \$2.60 back over the course of their working lives. This investment can also be seen in terms of a rate of return of 13.2%. This is an impressive return, especially when compared to the U.S. stock market 30-year average return of 10.6%.

### LIFETIME EARNINGS OF A PROGRAM COMPLETER COMPARED TO A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE



## **TAXPAYER BENEFITS**

Taxpayers will receive an estimated present value of \$778.9 thousand in added tax revenue stemming from the students' higher lifetime earnings and the increased output of businesses. Savings to the public sector add another estimated \$75.9 thousand in benefits due to a reduced demand for government-funded social services in North Carolina. Throughout the students' working lives, North Carolina taxpayers will receive a total of \$854.7 thousand in benefits.

Throughout the students' working lives, North Carolina taxpayers gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings \$854.7 thousand

