

The Economic Value of Mitchell Community College

Mitchell Community College (Mitchell) creates a significant positive impact on the business community and generates a return on investment to its major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. Using a two-pronged approach that involves an economic impact analysis and an investment analysis, this study calculates the benefits received by each of these groups. Results of the analysis reflect fiscal year (FY) 2019-20.



IREDELL COUNTY, NC



ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

In FY 2019-20, Mitchell added **\$128.4 million** in income to the Iredell County economy, a value approximately equal to **1.4%** of the county's total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, Mitchell's impact supported **2,225 jobs**. For perspective, the activities of Mitchell and its students support **one out of every 48 jobs** in Iredell County.

OPERATIONS SPENDING IMPACT

- Mitchell employed 448 full-time and part-time faculty and staff. Payroll amounted to \$16.7 million, much of which was spent in the county for groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. The college spent another \$12 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.
- The net impact of the college's operations spending added **\$23 million** in income to the county economy in FY 2019-20.

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING IMPACT

- Mitchell invests in construction each year to maintain its facilities, create additional capacities, and meet its growing educational demands, generating a short-term infusion of spending and jobs in the county economy.
- The net impact of Mitchell's construction spending in FY 2019-20 was **\$5.3 million** in added income for Iredell County.

STUDENT SPENDING IMPACT

- Some in-county students, referred to as retained students, would have left Iredell County for other educational opportunities if not for Mitchell. These

IMPACTS CREATED BY MITCHELL IN FY 2019-20



Operations spending impact

\$23.0 million



Construction spending impact

\$5.3 million



Student spending impact

\$4.4 million



Alumni impact

\$95.7 million



TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$128.4 million

OR

Jobs supported

2,225

retained students spent money on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, and other living expenses at county businesses.

- The expenditures of retained students in FY 2019-20 added **\$4.4 million** in income to the Iredell County economy.

ALUMNI IMPACT

- Over the years, students have studied at Mitchell and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly-acquired knowledge and skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in Iredell County.
- The net impact of Mitchell's former students currently employed in the county workforce amounted to **\$95.7 million** in added income in FY 2019-20.

INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

- Mitchell's FY 2019-20 students paid a present value of **\$5.1 million** to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and supplies. They also forwent **\$22.1 million** in money that they would have earned had they been working instead of attending college.
- In return for their investment, students will receive a cumulative present value **\$140.8 million** in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of **\$5.20** in higher future earnings for every dollar students invest in their education. Students' average annual rate of return is **24.1%**.

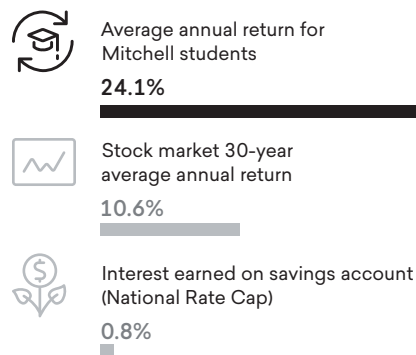
TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE

- Taxpayers provided Mitchell with **\$26.7 million** of funding in FY 2019-20. In return, they will benefit from added tax revenue, stemming from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased business output, amounting to **\$43.8 million**. A reduced demand for government-funded services in North Carolina will add another **\$2.7 million** in benefits to taxpayers.
- For every dollar of public money invested in Mitchell, taxpayers will receive **\$1.70** in return, over the course of students' working lives. The average annual rate of return for taxpayers is **4.6%**.

SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

- In FY 2019-20, North Carolina invested **\$62.6 million** to support Mitchell. In turn, the North Carolina economy will grow by **\$490.1 million**, over the course of students' working lives. Society will also benefit from **\$8.4 million** of public and private sector savings.
- For every dollar invested in Mitchell in FY 2019-20, people in North Carolina will receive **\$8.00** in return, for as long as Mitchell's FY 2019-20 students remain active in the state workforce.

STUDENTS SEE A HIGH RATE OF RETURN FOR THEIR INVESTMENT IN MITCHELL



Source: Forbes' S&P 500, 1991-2020. FDIC.gov, 6-2021.

For every \$1...

