

The Economic Value of Roanoke-Chowan Community College

Roanoke-Chowan Community College (R-CCC) 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) 2019-20.¹



THE R-CCC SERVICE AREA, NC



ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

In FY 2019-20, R-CCC added **\$33 million** in income to the R-CCC Service Area² economy, a value approximately equal to **1.6%** of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, R-CCC's impact supported **607 jobs**. For perspective, the activities of R-CCC and its students support **one out of every 45 jobs** in the R-CCC Service Area.

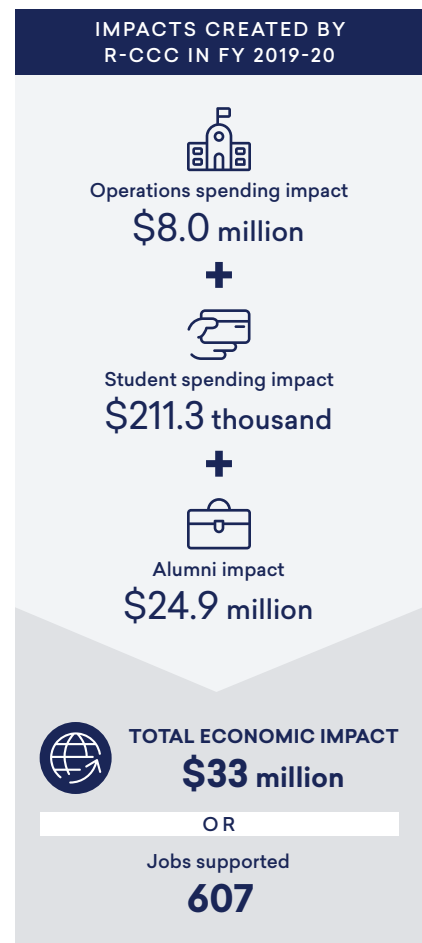
OPERATIONS SPENDING IMPACT

- R-CCC employed 115 full-time and part-time faculty and staff. Payroll amounted to \$6.8 million, much of which was spent in the region for groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. The college spent another \$2.6 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.
- The net impact of the college's operations spending added **\$8 million** in income to the regional economy in FY 2019-20.

STUDENT SPENDING IMPACT

- Around 32% of students attending R-CCC originated from outside the region. Some of these students relocated to the R-CCC Service Area. In addition, some in-region students, referred to as retained students, would have left the R-CCC Service Area for other educational opportunities if not for R-CCC. These relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, and other living expenses at regional businesses.

¹ Due to limited data availability, data from FY 2018-2019 were used as a proxy for revenues, expenditures, and net grant aid.
² For the purposes of this analysis, the R-CCC Service Area is comprised of Bertie, Hertford, and Northampton Counties.



- The expenditures of relocated and retained students in FY 2019-20 added **\$211.3 thousand** in income to the R-CCC Service Area economy.

ALUMNI IMPACT

- Over the years, students have studied at R-CCC and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly-acquired knowledge and skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in the R-CCC Service Area.
- The net impact of R-CCC's former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to **\$24.9 million** in added income in FY 2019-20.



INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

- R-CCC's FY 2019-20 students paid a present value of **\$0.9 thousand** to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and supplies. They also forewent **\$2.5 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 **\$21.4 million** in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of **\$6.20** in higher future earnings for every dollar students invest in their education. Students' average annual rate of return is **33.0%**.

TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE

- Taxpayers provided R-CCC with **\$7.5 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 **\$5.9 million**. A reduced demand for government-funded services in North Carolina will add another **\$617 thousand** in benefits to taxpayers. Total benefits to North Carolina taxpayers amount to **\$6.5 million**.

SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

- In FY 2019-20, North Carolina invested **\$12.5 million** to support R-CCC. In turn, the North Carolina economy will grow by **\$66.9 million**, over the course of students' working lives. Society will also benefit from **\$1.6 million** of public and private sector savings.
- For every dollar invested in R-CCC in FY 2019-20, people in North Carolina will receive **\$5.50** in return, for as long as R-CCC's FY 2019-20 students remain active in the state workforce.

STUDENTS SEE A HIGH RATE OF RETURN FOR THEIR INVESTMENT IN R-CCC



Average annual return for R-CCC students
33.0%



Stock market 30-year average annual return
10.6%



Interest earned on savings account (National Rate Cap)
0.8%

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

For every \$1...



Students gain in lifetime earnings
\$6.20



Society gains in added income and social savings
\$5.50

In total...



Taxpayers gained in added tax revenue and public sector savings
\$6.5 million