

Overview Fact Sheet

Herkimer County Community College plays a significant role in the county 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

- HCCC served **5,363** credit students and **457** non-credit students in the 2008-09 reporting year.
- The average income at the career midpoint of an associate's degree graduate in Herkimer County is **\$30,600**, 35% more than a student with a high school diploma.

Students enjoy a 14.2% rate of return on their investment in HCCC.

- The average HCCC student's discounted lifetime income increases by **\$5.10** for every dollar invested.
- Students enjoy an attractive **14.2%** average rate of return on their investment in HCCC.

Social Perspective

- HCCC returns **\$17.30** to the public for each dollar of support received from state and county taxpayers.
- Higher earnings of HCCC students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in New York by about **\$15.6 million** each year.
- New York will see avoided social costs amounting to **\$952,900** per year due to HCCC students, including savings associated with improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.

Taxpayer Perspective

- State and county governments allocated approximately **\$16 million** in support of HCCC in FY 2008-09.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of **\$2.00** over the course of students' working careers in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided costs.
- State and county governments see a rate of return of **6.5%**¹ on their support for HCCC. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

¹Public investments tend to generate low returns and often do not return the principal investment to public treasuries.

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Total Effect

- The impact of student productivity, college operations, and student spending amount to an estimated **\$75 million** in added income in Herkimer County each year. This is approximately equal to 6.3% of the total county economy.

Total economic impact attributable to HCCC amounts to \$74.9 million each year or roughly 6.3% of the entire county economy.

Productivity Effect

- The current Herkimer County economy embodies an estimated **515,000** credits that have accumulated over the past thirty-year period as thousands of former HCCC students (completers and non-completers) enter the workforce year after year.
- HCCC skills translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of HCCC credits in the workforce amounts to around **\$48.9 million** each year.

College Operations Effect

- The Herkimer County economy annually receives roughly **\$18.5 million** in income due to HCCC 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.

Student Spending Effect

- HCCC estimates that approximately **65%** of its students come from outside the county, bringing with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the county economy.
- The expenditures of HCCC's out-of-county students generate roughly **\$7.6 million** in added income in Herkimer County each year.