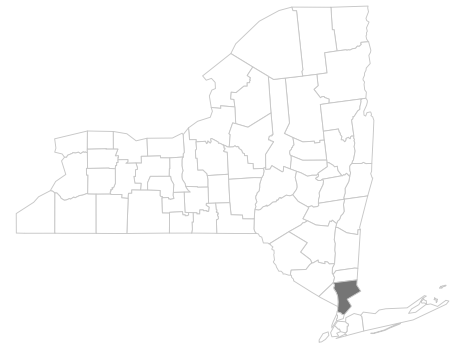


The Economic Value of SUNY Westchester Community College



WESTCHESTER COUNTY,
NEW YORK

SUNY Westchester Community College (SUNY WCC) 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) 2021-22.

Economic impact analysis

In FY 2021-22, SUNY WCC added **\$585.6 million** in income to the Westchester County economy, a value approximately equal to **0.6%** of the county's total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, SUNY WCC's impact supported **5,837 jobs**.

Operations spending impact

- SUNY WCC employed 1,264 full-time and part-time faculty and staff. Payroll amounted to \$94.4 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 \$24.1 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.
- The net impact of the college's operations spending added **\$109.6 million** in income to the county economy in FY 2021-22.

Student spending impact

- Some in-county students, referred to as retained students, would have left Westchester County for other educational opportunities if not for SUNY WCC. These retained students spent money on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, and other living expenses at county businesses.
- The expenditures of retained students in FY 2021-22 added **\$10 million** in income to the Westchester County economy.

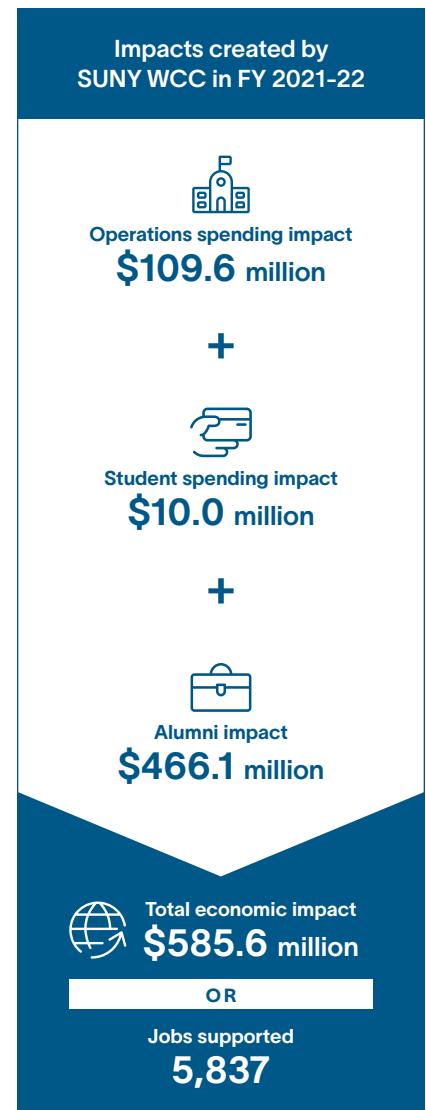
Alumni impact

- Over the years, students have studied at SUNY WCC and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly-acquired knowledge and skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in Westchester County.
- The net impact of SUNY WCC's former students currently employed in the county workforce amounted to **\$466.1 million** in added income in FY 2021-22.

Investment analysis

Student perspective

- SUNY WCC's FY 2021-22 students paid a present value of **\$32.5 million** to cover the cost of tuition, fees, supplies, and interest on student loans. They also forwent **\$15.6 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 of **\$195.9 million** in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of **\$4.10** in higher future earnings for every dollar students invest in their education. Students' average annual rate of return is **16.4%**.



Taxpayer perspective

- Taxpayers provided SUNY WCC with **\$71.2 million** of funding in FY 2021-22. In return, they will benefit from added tax revenue, stemming from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased business output, amounting to **\$84.1 million**. A reduced demand for government-funded services in New York will add another **\$12.5 million** in benefits to taxpayers.
- For every dollar of public money invested in SUNY WCC, taxpayers will receive **\$1.40** in return, over the course of students' working lives. The average annual rate of return for taxpayers is **2.1%**.

Social perspective

- In FY 2021-22, New York invested **\$140.3 million** to support SUNY WCC. In turn, the New York economy will grow by **\$910.6 million**, over the course of students' working lives. Society will also benefit from **\$18.7 million** of public and private sector savings.
- For every dollar invested in SUNY WCC in FY 2021-22, people in New York will receive **\$6.60** in return, for as long as SUNY WCC's FY 2021-22 students remain active in the state workforce.

Students see a high rate of return for their investment in SUNY WCC



Average annual return for SUNY WCC students

16.4%



Stock market 30-year average annual return

9.6%



Interest earned on savings account (National Rate Cap)

0.4%

Source: Forbes' S&P 500, 1992-2021. FDIC.gov, 2-2022.

For every \$1...



Students gain in lifetime earnings

\$4.10



Taxpayers gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings

\$1.40



Society gains in added income and social savings

\$6.60

