



The Economic Value of
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



GCCCD SERVICE AREA
IN CALIFORNIA

THE Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (GCCCD)* creates value in many ways. The district plays a key role in helping students increase their employability and achieve their individual potential. The colleges draw students to the county, generating new dollars and opportunities for San Diego County. The colleges provide students with the education, training, and skills they need to have fulfilling and prosperous careers. Furthermore, the colleges are places for students to meet new people, increase their self-confidence, and promote their overall health and well-being.

GCCCD influences both the lives of students and the county economy. The colleges support a variety of industries in San Diego County, serve county businesses, and benefit society as a whole in California from an expanded economy and improved quality of life. The benefits created by GCCCD even extend to the state and local government through increased tax revenues and public sector savings.

This study measures the economic impacts created by GCCCD on the business community and the benefits the colleges generate in return for the investments made by their key stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. The following two analyses are presented:



Economic impact analysis



Investment analysis

All results reflect employee, student, and financial data, provided by the district, for fiscal year (FY) 2018-19. Impacts on the San Diego County economy are reported under the economic impact analysis and are measured in terms of added income. The returns on investment to students, taxpayers, and society in California are reported under the investment analysis.

* The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District consists of Cuyamaca College and Grossmont College.

GCCCD influences both the
lives of its students *and the*
county economy.



Economic impact analysis

GCCCD promotes economic growth in San Diego County through its direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of students and county businesses. The colleges serve as employers and buyers of goods and services for their day-to-day operations and construction activities. The colleges' activities attract students from outside San Diego County, whose expenditures benefit county vendors. In addition, the colleges are primary sources of higher education to San Diego County residents and suppliers of trained workers to county industries, enhancing overall productivity in the county workforce.

Operations Spending Impact



GCCCD adds economic value to San Diego County as an employer of county residents and a large-scale buyer of goods and services. In FY 2018-19, the district employed 2,994 full-time and part-time faculty and staff, 99% of whom lived in San Diego County. Total payroll at GCCCD was \$152.3 million, much of which was spent in the county for groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. In addition, the district spent \$86.2 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.

GCCCD's day-to-day operations spending added \$237.5 million in income to the county during the analysis year. This figure represents the colleges' payroll, the multiplier effects generated by the in-county spending of the colleges and their employees, and a downward adjustment to account for funding that the district received from county sources. The \$237.5 million in added income is equivalent to supporting 3,689 jobs in the county.

Construction Spending Impact



GCCCD invests in construction each year to maintain facilities, create additional capacities, and meet growing educational demands. While the amount varies from year to year, these quick infusions of income and jobs have a substantial impact on the county economy. In FY 2018-19, GCCCD's construction spending generated \$18.2 million in added income, which is equivalent to supporting 208 jobs.

Student Spending Impact



Around 6% of students attending GCCCD originated from outside the county in FY 2018-19, and some of these students relocated to San Diego County to attend the colleges. These students may not

IMPACTS CREATED BY GCCCD
IN FY 2018-19



\$237.5 million
Operations Spending Impact



\$18.2 million
Construction Spending Impact



\$65.4 million
Student Spending Impact



\$810.2 million
Alumni Impact



\$1.1 billion
TOTAL IMPACT

- OR -

14,239
JOBS SUPPORTED

have come to the county if the colleges did not exist. In addition, some in-county students, referred to as retained students, would have left San Diego County if not for the existence of GCCCD. While attending the colleges, these relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, accommodation, transportation, and other household expenses. This spending generated \$65.4 million in added income for the county economy in FY 2018-19, which supported 1,214 jobs in San Diego County.

Alumni Impact



The education and training the colleges provide for county residents has the greatest impact. Since the colleges were established, students have studied at GCCCD and entered the county workforce with greater knowledge and new skills. Today, hundreds of thousands of former GCCCD students are employed in San Diego County. As a result of their GCCCD educations, the students receive higher earnings and increase the productivity of the businesses that employ them. In FY 2018-19, GCCCD alumni generated \$810.2 million in added income for the county economy, which is equivalent to supporting 9,128 jobs.

Total Impact

GCCCD added \$1.1 billion in income to the San Diego County economy during the analysis year, equal to the sum of operations and construction spending impacts, the student spending impact, and the alumni impact. For context, the \$1.1 billion impact was equal to approximately 0.4% of the total gross regional product (GRP) of San Diego County. This contribution that the district provided on its own was nearly as large as the entire Hospitals (Local Government) industry in the county.

GCCCD's total impact can also be expressed in terms of jobs supported. The \$1.1 billion impact supported 14,239 county jobs, using the jobs-to-sales ratios specific to each industry in the county. In addition, the \$1.1 billion, or 14,239 supported jobs, stemmed from different industry sectors. Among non-education industry sectors, GCCCD's spending and alumni in the Retail Trade industry sector supported 1,881 jobs in FY 2018-19. These are impacts that would not have been generated without the district's presence in San Diego County.

ECC IMPACTS BY INDUSTRY (JOBS SUPPORTED)





Investment analysis

An investment analysis evaluates the costs associated with a proposed venture against its expected benefits. If the benefits outweigh the costs, then the investment is financially worthwhile. The analysis presented here considers GCCCD as an investment from the perspectives of students, taxpayers, and society in California.

Student Perspective



In FY 2018-19, GCCCD served 33,222 credit and 116 non-credit students. In order to attend the colleges, the students paid for tuition, fees, books, and supplies. They also took out loans and will incur interest on those loans. Additionally, students gave up money they would have otherwise earned had they been working instead of attending college. The total investment made by GCCCD students in FY 2018-19 amounted to a present value of \$103.1 million, equal to \$32.9 million in out-of-pocket expenses (including future principal and interest on student loans) and \$70.2 million in forgone time and money.

In return for their investment, GCCCD's students will receive a stream of higher future earnings that will continue to grow throughout their working lives. For example, the average GCCCD associate degree graduate from FY 2018-19 will see annual earnings \$9,900 higher than a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in California. Over a working lifetime, the benefits of the associate degree over a high school diploma will amount to an undiscounted value of \$396,000 in higher earnings per graduate. The present value of the cumulative higher future earnings that GCCCD's FY 2018-19 students will receive over their working careers is \$707.1 million.

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



25.2%

Average annual return for GCCCD students



9.9%

Stock market 30-year average annual return

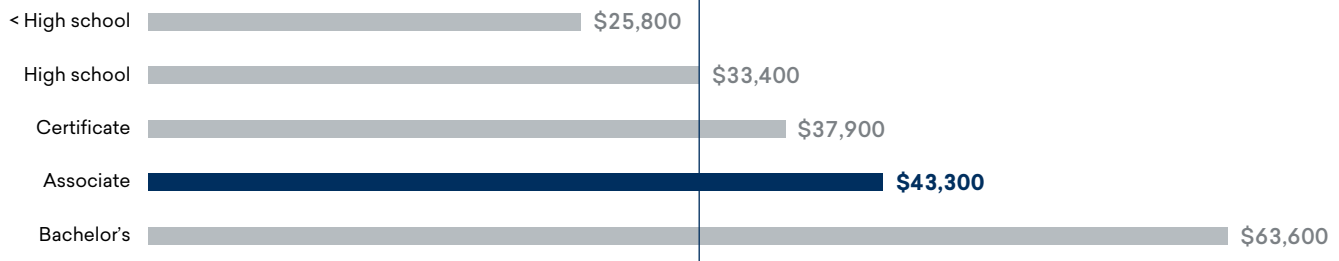


0.8%

Interest earned on savings account (National Rate Cap)

Source: Forbes' S&P 500, 1989-2018. FDIC.gov, 6-2019.

The average associate degree graduate from GCCCD will see an increase in earnings of **\$9,900** each year compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in California.



Source: Emsi employment data.

The students' benefit-cost ratio is 6.9. In other words, for every dollar students invest in an education at GCCCD, in the form of out-of-pocket expenses and forgone time and money, they will receive a cumulative value of \$6.90 in higher future earnings. Annually, the students' investment in GCCCD has an average annual internal rate of return of 25.2%, which is impressive compared to the U.S. stock market's 30-year average rate of return of 9.9%.

Taxpayer Perspective



GCCCD generates more in tax revenue than it takes. These benefits to taxpayers consist primarily of taxes that the state and local government will collect from the added revenue created in the state. As GCCCD students will earn more, they will make higher tax payments throughout their working lives. Students' employers will also make higher tax payments as they increase their output and purchases of goods and services. By the end of the FY 2018-19 students' working lives, the state and local government will have collected a present value of \$244.1 million in added taxes.

Benefits to taxpayers will also consist of savings generated by the improved lifestyles of GCCCD students and the corresponding reduced government services. Education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes.

Students' GCCCD educations will generate savings in three main categories: 1) healthcare, 2) crime, and 3) income assistance. Improved health will lower students' demand for national health care services. In addition, students will be less likely to interact with the criminal justice system, resulting in a reduced demand for law enforcement and victim costs. GCCCD students will be more employable, so their reduced demand for income assistance such as welfare and unemployment benefits will benefit taxpayers. For a list of study references, contact GCCCD for a copy of the main report. Altogether, the present value of the benefits associated with a GCCCD education will generate \$28.5 million in savings to state and local taxpayers.

Total taxpayer benefits amount to \$272.6 million, the present value sum of the added taxes and public sector savings. Taxpayer costs are \$195.5 million, equal to the amount of state and local government funding GCCCD received in FY 2018-19. These benefits and costs yield a benefit-cost ratio of 1.4. This means

*For every dollar of public money invested in GCCCD, taxpayers will receive a cumulative value of **\$1.40** over the course of the students' working lives.*



STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

\$707.1 million
Present value benefits

\$103.1 million
Present value costs

\$604 million
Net present value

Benefit-cost ratio	Rate of return
6.9	25.2%



TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE

\$272.6 million
Present value benefits

\$195.5 million
Present value costs

\$77.1 million
Net present value

Benefit-cost ratio	Rate of return
1.4	3.5%



SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

\$3.6 billion
Present value benefits

\$357.6 million
Present value costs

\$3.3 billion
Net present value

Benefit-cost ratio	Rate of return
10.2	n/a*

* The rate of return is not reported for the social perspective because the beneficiaries are not necessarily the same as the original investors.

that for every dollar of public money invested in GCCCD in FY 2018-19, taxpayers will receive a cumulative value of \$1.40 over the course of the students' working lives. The average annual internal rate of return for taxpayers is 3.5%, which compares favorably to other long-term investments in the public and private sectors.

Social Perspective



Society as a whole in California benefits from the presence of GCCCD in two major ways. Primarily, society benefits from an increased economic base in the state. This is attributed to higher student earnings and increased business output, which raise economic prosperity in California.

Benefits to society also consist of the savings generated by the improved lifestyles of GCCCD students. As discussed in the previous section, education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes that generate social savings. Note that these costs are avoided by the consumers but are distinct from the costs avoided by the taxpayers outlined above. Healthcare savings include avoided medical costs associated with smoking, alcohol dependence, obesity, drug abuse, and depression. Savings related to crime include reduced security expenditures and insurance administration, lower victim costs, and reduced expenditures by the criminal justice system. Income assistance savings include reduced welfare and unemployment claims. For a list of study references, contact GCCCD for a copy of the main report.

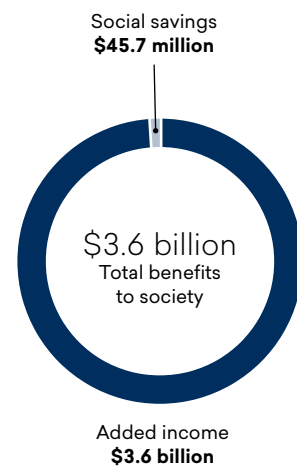
Altogether, the social benefits of GCCCD equal a present value of \$3.6 billion. These benefits include \$3.6 billion in added income through students' increased lifetime earnings and increased business output, as well as \$45.7 million in social savings related to health, crime, and income assistance in California. People in California invested a present value total of \$357.6 million in GCCCD in FY 2018-19. The cost includes all the colleges' expenditures and student costs.

The benefit-cost ratio for society is 10.2, equal to the \$3.6 billion in benefits divided by the \$357.6 million in costs. In other words, for every dollar invested in GCCCD, people in California will receive a cumulative value of \$10.20 in benefits. The benefits of this investment will occur for as long as GCCCD's FY 2018-19 students remain employed in the state workforce.

Summary of Investment Analysis Results

The results of the analysis demonstrate that GCCCD is a strong investment for all three major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. As shown, students receive a great return for their investments in a GCCCD education. At the same time, taxpayers' investment in GCCCD returns more to government budgets than it costs and creates a wide range of social benefits throughout California.

SOCIAL BENEFITS IN CALIFORNIA FROM GCCCD



Conclusion

The results of this study demonstrate that GCCCD creates value from multiple perspectives. The district benefits county businesses by increasing consumer spending in the county and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. GCCCD enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. The district benefits state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services. Finally, GCCCD benefits society as a whole in California by creating a more prosperous economy and generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students.

About the Study

Data and assumptions used in the study are based on several sources, including the FY 2018-19 academic and financial reports from GCCCD, industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, outputs of Emsi's Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model, and a variety of studies and surveys relating education to social behavior. The study applies a conservative methodology and follows standard practice using only the most recognized indicators of economic impact and investment effectiveness. For a full description of the data and approach used in the study, please contact the district for a copy of the main report.

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multiple perspectives.



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