



FACT SHEET

The Economic Value of Santa Fe Community College | January 2018

Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) 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) 2015-16.

IMPACTS CREATED BY SFCC IN FY 2015-16

ADDED INCOME	JOBS
\$39.2 million	889
Operations spending impact	
\$11.8 million	223
Student spending impact	
\$169.1 million	2,918
Alumni impact	
\$220.1 million	4,029
Total impact	

IMPACT ON BUSINESS COMMUNITY

During the analysis year, SFCC and its students added **\$220.1 million** in income to the Santa Fe Public School District economy, approximately equal to **3.2%** of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). By comparison, this impact from the college is nearly as large as the entire Construction industry in the region. The economic impacts of SFCC break down as follows:

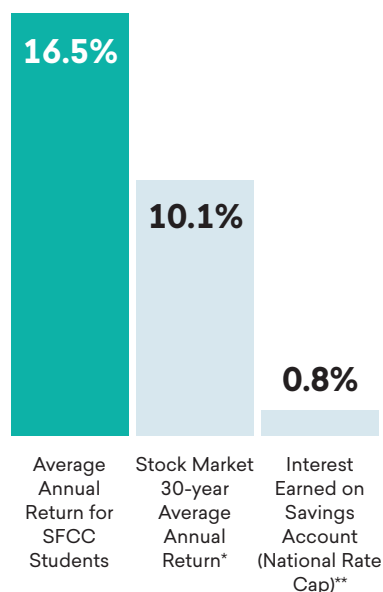
Operations spending impact

- SFCC employed 721 full-time and part-time employees in FY 2015-16. Payroll amounted to \$29.9 million, much of which was spent in the Santa Fe Public School District to purchase groceries, clothing, and other household goods and services. The college spent another \$27 million to support its day-to-day operations.
- The net impact of college payroll and expenses in the Santa Fe Public School District during the analysis year was approximately **\$39.2 million** in income.

Student spending impact

- Around 17% of students attending SFCC originated from outside the region. Some of these students relocated to the Santa Fe Public School District. In addition, a number of students would have left the region if not for SFCC. These relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, transportation, rent, and so on at regional businesses.
- The expenditures of relocated and retained students during the analysis year added approximately **\$11.8 million** in income to the Santa Fe Public School District economy.

STUDENT RATE OF RETURN



* Forbes' S&P 500, 1987-2016.

** FDIC.gov, 7-2017.

Alumni impact

- Over the years, students have studied at SFCC and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly-acquired skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in the Santa Fe Public School District.
- The impact of former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to **\$169.1 million** in added income during the analysis year.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT TO STUDENTS, TAXPAYERS, AND SOCIETY

Student perspective

- SFCC's FY 2015-16 students paid a total present value of **\$8.9 million** to cover the cost of tuition, fees, supplies, and interest on student loans. They also forwent **\$40.5 million** in money that they would have earned had they been working instead of learning.
- In return for the monies invested in the college, students will receive a present value of **\$215.4 million** in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of **\$4.40** in higher future earnings for every \$1 that students invest in their education. The average annual return for students is **16.5%**.

Taxpayer perspective

- In FY 2015-16, state and local taxpayers in New Mexico paid **\$39.2 million** to support the operations of SFCC. The net present value of the added tax revenue stemming from the students' higher lifetime earnings and the increased output of businesses amounts to **\$89 million** in benefits to taxpayers. Savings to the public sector add another **\$10 million** in benefits due to a reduced demand for government-funded services in New Mexico.
- Dividing benefits to taxpayers by the associated costs yields a **2.5** benefit-cost ratio, i.e., every \$1 in costs returns \$2.50 in benefits. The average annual return on investment for taxpayers is **6.8%**.

Social perspective

- The economic base in New Mexico will grow by **\$1 billion** over the course of the students' working lives. Society will also benefit from **\$24 million** in present value social savings related to reduced crime, lower unemployment, and increased health and well-being across the state.
- For every dollar that society spent on SFCC FY 2015-16 educations, society will receive a cumulative value of **\$10.20** in benefits, for as long as the FY 2015-16 student population at SFCC remains active in the state workforce.

