Making an Impact:
The Economic Value of the Community
College of Allegheny County
As Southwestern Pennsylvania’s preeminent provider of career education and skills-based training, the Community College of Allegheny County’s impact extends far outside the classroom. It is an economic tour de force that year-on-year generates a significant return on investment for students, employers, taxpayers and the region as a whole.

**Economic Impact Analysis**

In FY 2019–20, CCAC added $1.3 billion in income to the Allegheny County economy, a value approximately equal to 1.3% of the county’s total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, CCAC’s impact supported 15,705 jobs. For perspective, the activities of CCAC and its students support one out of every 57 jobs in Allegheny County.

- **OPERATIONS SPENDING IMPACT**
  CCAC employs 1,900+ full-time and part-time faculty and staff. The net impact of the college’s operations spending added $123.2 million in income to the county economy.

- **CONSTRUCTION SPENDING IMPACT**
  CCAC invests in construction each year to maintain and enhance its facilities and meet its growing educational demands, generating a short-term infusion of spending and jobs in the county economy. The net impact of CCAC’s construction spending was $3.4 million in added income for Allegheny County.

- **STUDENT SPENDING IMPACT**
  About 36% of credit students attending CCAC originated from outside the county. Some of these students relocated to Allegheny County. In addition, some in-county students, referred to as retained students, would have left Allegheny County for other educational opportunities if not for CCAC. These students spend money on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, and other living expenses at county businesses.

  The expenditures of relocated and retained students added $25.4 million in income to the Allegheny County economy.

- **ALUMNI IMPACT**
  Over the years, students have studied at CCAC and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly acquired knowledge and skills. Today, hundreds of thousands of these former students are employed in Allegheny County.

  The net impact of CCAC’s former students currently employed in the county workforce amounted to $1.2 billion in added income in FY 2019–20.

**Investment Analysis**

- **STUDENT PERSPECTIVE**
  As a return on their investment in a CCAC education, students will receive $614.5 million in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of $4.70 in higher future earnings for every dollar students invest in their education. Students’ average annual rate of return is 19.7%.

- **TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE**
  Taxpayers benefit from added tax revenue, stemming from students’ higher lifetime earnings and increased business output, amounting to $166.2 million. A reduced demand for government-funded services in Pennsylvania will add another $11.4 million in benefits to taxpayers.

  For every dollar of public money invested in CCAC, taxpayers will receive $2.50 in return over the course of students’ working lives. The average annual rate of return for taxpayers is 8.2%.

- **SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE**
  In FY 2019–20, Pennsylvania invested $232.8 million to support CCAC. In turn, the Pennsylvania economy will grow by $2.2 billion over the course of students’ working lives. Society will also benefit from $32.6 million of public and private sector savings.

  For every dollar invested in CCAC in FY 2019–20, people in Pennsylvania will receive $9.50 in return for as long as CCAC’s FY 2019–20 students remain active in the state workforce.
# Impact by Industry (Jobs supported)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Jobs Supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
<td>3,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>1,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services (except Public Administration)</td>
<td>1,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional &amp; Technical Services</td>
<td>1,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Industries</td>
<td>7,459</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CCAC Total Annual Impact: FY 2019–2020

- **$3.4M** Construction
- **$123.2M** Operations
- **$1.3 BILLION** Added income
  - OR
- **15,705** Jobs supported
- **$25.4M** Students
- **$1.2B** Alumni
1 out of 57 jobs in Allegheny County is supported by the activities of CCAC and its students.

- **24,000+** Credit Students
- **17,000+** Noncredit Students
- **1,900+** Employees

92% of CCAC graduates live and work in the region.

CCAC SERVICE AREA

- North
- Allegheny
- Boyce
- West Hills Center
- Homewood-Brushton Center
- Braddock Hills Center
- Washington County Center
ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

**Alumni Impact**
Impact of the increased earnings of CCAC alumni and the businesses where they work

$1.2 BILLION Added Income

13,043 Jobs Supported

Enough to pay for 3 Super Bowls

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**Student Spending Impact**
Impact of the daily spending of CCAC students attracted to or retained in the region

$25.4 MILLION Added Income

424 Jobs Supported

Enough to buy 2,042 families a year’s worth of groceries

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**Operations Spending Impact**
Impact of annual payroll and other spending

$123.2 MILLION Added Income

2,200 Jobs Supported

Enough to buy 3,670 new cars

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**Construction Spending Impact**
Impact of expenditures for ongoing construction

$3.4 MILLION Added Income

39 Jobs Supported

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INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

For every $1 invested in CCAC

- **Students** gain in lifetime earnings: $4.70
- **Taxpayers** gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings: $2.50
- **Society** gains in added income and social savings: $9.50

The average associate degree graduate from CCAC will see an increase in earnings of $11,000 each year compared to someone with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Pennsylvania.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Gain in Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; High School</td>
<td>$27,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>$36,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>$41,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>$47,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>$66,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since its founding in 1966, CCAC has flourished, becoming the educational powerhouse it is today—a nationally renowned two-year college dedicated to serving all members of the community. From groundbreaking student success initiatives to top-ranked academic and career-based programs, CCAC continues to be the college of choice for nearly one out of every three adults in Allegheny County.

Each year, more than 24,000 students enroll at CCAC, taking advantage of nearly 150 degree, certificate, diploma and transfer programs while thousands more access noncredit and workforce development courses. Comprising four campuses and four neighborhood centers as well as other off-site locations, CCAC is honored to have one of the largest veteran student populations in the state and takes pride in ranking among the nation’s top community colleges for the number of individuals graduating in nursing and the health-related professions.

CCAC graduates have transferred to the nation’s most prestigious colleges and universities, have obtained the most academically challenging and competitive degrees, and can be found at leading companies, organizations and institutions throughout the country. CCAC alumni are actively engaged in every sector of society, providing leadership to scores of economic, scientific, civic and philanthropic entities both in the Pittsburgh region and around the world. Visit ccac.edu to learn more.