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OCTOBER 18, 2022

IOWA WESTERN POSITIVELY IMPACTS LOCAL COMMUNITIES, ECONOMY

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA - According to a recent economic impact study, Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) creates a significant positive impact on the business community and generates a return on investment to its major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society.

Iowa Western, along with Emsi Burning Glass and the Community Colleges of Iowa, released a report on the regional economy and the benefits generated by IWCC for students, taxpayers, and society within the Iowa Western service area and the state of Iowa. The results showed that IWCC generates a positive ROI for all three constituents and creates a positive net impact for the regional economy.

Using a two-pronged approach that involves an economic impact analysis and an investment analysis, the Emsi study calculates the benefits received by each of these groups. Results of the analysis reflects fiscal year (FY) 2019-20.

“The results of this economic impact study truly highlighted the value of community colleges across the state,” said Iowa Western President Dr. Dan Kinney. “Looking at the regional data for Southwest Iowa, our college is a key contributor to the economic engine of all of the communities that we serve. We look forward to continuing our mission of providing quality educational opportunities for residents throughout Southwest Iowa.”

The first analysis looked at the combined economic impact of alumni, operations spending, and student spending. It was found that the college added \$176.3 million in income annually and supported 2,798 (1 out of every 32) jobs in the Iowa Western service area.

When looking at the investment analysis, students gained a return of \$6.70 in future earnings for every dollar spent on their education at Iowa Western. After earning their associates degrees from IWCC, students will see an increase of approximately \$8,300 each year compared to those with a high school diploma in Iowa. In terms of a taxpayer perspective, for every \$1 of public money spent investing in the college taxpayers will gain \$1.70 in added tax revenue and public sector savings.

The results from this joint report demonstrates IWCC’s attractiveness as an investment for students with higher rates of return than alternative investment opportunities. Similarly, the college expands the state economy and creates a wide range of positive social benefits that accrue to taxpayers and society in general within Iowa.