A Return on Investment for Illinois Students and Employers

Illinois community colleges are advancing the State’s goal of 60% by 2025:¹

- Statewide, there was a 57% increase in Illinois community college graduates between 2000 and 2012. Health Professions and Related Sciences had the highest number of completers, increasing 173%.

An Illinois community college education increases earnings for workers – even during a recession:

- Taking courses at an Illinois community college pays off. On average, all students who finished their community college coursework in FY2011 saw a 25.3% increase in earnings over their pre-enrollment wages.²

- Graduates realize even greater benefits. An Illinois community college graduate can expect a total lifetime earnings gain of over $570,000 – a 44% increase over the average total lifetime earnings of those not completing a community college program.

Investing in an Illinois community college degree yields an average annual rate of return of over 14%.

Nearly 9 in 10 community college students stay in Illinois for employment in the 5-year period after graduation.

Illinois community colleges add skills to our workforce and boost business:

- At some point over the past 12 years, 74% of Illinois employers hired a community college student.
- Over the past 12 years, 1.7 million Illinois workers participated in credit courses at an Illinois community college.
- Over the past 12 years, nearly 1.4 million Illinoisans enrolled in community college noncredit, short-term business and industry training or professional and vocational development courses.

Average Annual Rate of Return of Initial Investment

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<th>Housing Market</th>
<th>S&amp;P 500</th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
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<td>3.7%³</td>
<td>9.3%³</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
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¹Illinois’ goal is 60% of adults having a college degree or other marketable credential by the year 2025.
²This figure measures the change in earnings between pre-enrollment & post-completion and represents graduates and individuals who did not re-enroll in FY2012.
A Return on Investment for Local Communities

Illinois community colleges are responding to the state’s changing demographics and educational needs:

- More students are enrolling in community college directly after high school. In FY2012 over half of community college enrollees were **age 24 or less**.
- Enrollments in Illinois community colleges have increased for minorities. In FY2012 African American students made up **16.8%** of the total (up from 14% in 2000) and Hispanic students made up **16.1%** of (up from 14.4% in 2000).
- More enrolling students are preparing for college transfer. As a percent of total enrollments, transfer students grew from 30% in 2000 to **38.7%** in 2012.
- Since 2006, online enrollments have almost doubled. By 2012, **105,536 students** took at least one online class for credit, about **14.8%** of total students.

Illinois community college students generated billions of dollars in state & federal income tax revenues from 2003-2012:

Illinois community colleges boost the economy of local communities:

- In FY2012 Illinois community colleges generated a total economic output of **$3.1 billion** and almost **51,000 jobs**.

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