

FACT SHEET

The Economic Value of Lamar Community College | May 2017

Lamar Community College (Lamar) 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 to each of these groups. Results of the analysis reflect Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16.

IMPACTS CREATED BY LAMAR IN FY 2015-16

ADDED INCOME	JOBS
\$5.9 million	127
Operations and construction spending impact	
\$1.9 million	41
Student spending impact	
\$33.3 million	895
Alumni impact	
\$41.1 million	1,063
Total impact	

IMPACT ON BUSINESS COMMUNITY

During the analysis year, Lamar and its students added **\$41.1 million** in income to the Lamar Service Area economy, approximately equal to **6.4%** of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). By comparison, this impact from the college is slightly larger than the entire Retail Trade industry in the region. The economic impacts of Lamar break down as follows:

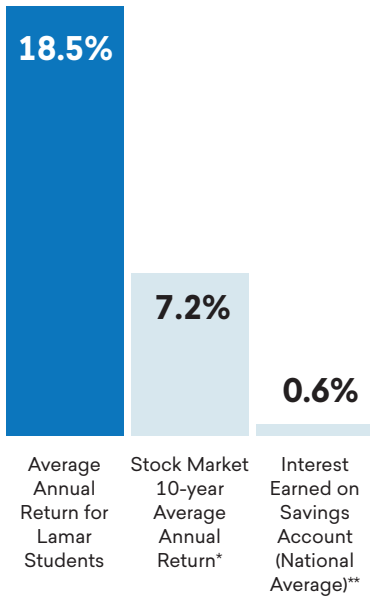
Operations and construction spending impact

- Lamar employed 107 full-time faculty, adjunct instructors, and staff in FY 2015-16. Payroll amounted to **\$5 million**, much of which was spent in the Lamar Service Area to purchase groceries, clothing, and other household goods and services. The college spent another **\$5.2 million** to support its day-to-day operations and various construction and renovation projects.
- The net impact of college payroll and expenses in the Lamar Service Area during the analysis year was approximately **\$5.9 million** in income. This represents income that would not exist in the Lamar Service Area if not for Lamar. Of the \$5.9 million in added income, \$66.2 thousand is attributable to Lamar's construction activities in FY 2015-16.

Student spending impact

- Around **33%** of students attending Lamar originated from outside the region. Some of these students relocated to the Lamar Service Area. In addition, a number of students would have left the region if not for Lamar. These relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, transportation, rent, and so on at regional businesses.

STUDENT RATE OF RETURN



* Forbes' S&P 500, 1994-2014.

** FDIC.gov 12-2016.

- The expenditures of relocated and retained students during the analysis year added approximately **\$1.9 million** in income to the Lamar Service Area economy.

Alumni impact

- Over the years, students have studied at Lamar and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly-acquired skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in the Lamar Service Area.
- The accumulated contribution of former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to **\$33.3 million** in added income during the analysis year.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT TO STUDENTS, TAXPAYERS, AND SOCIETY

Student perspective

- Lamar's FY 2015-16 students paid a total of **\$2.4 million** to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and supplies. They also forwent **\$3.7 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 **\$40.3 million** in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of **\$6.50** in higher future earnings for every \$1 that students invest in their education. The average annual return for students is **18.5%**.

Taxpayer perspective

- In FY 2015-16, state taxpayers in Colorado paid **\$4.5 million** to support the operations of Lamar. The net present value of the added tax revenue stemming from the students' higher lifetime earnings and the increased output of businesses amounts to **\$12.8 million** in benefits to taxpayers. Savings to the public sector add another **\$1.1 million** in benefits due to a reduced demand for government-funded services in Colorado.
- Dividing benefits to taxpayers by the associated costs yields a **3.1** benefit-cost ratio, i.e., every \$1 in costs returns \$3.10 in benefits. The average annual return on investment for taxpayers is **7.6%**.

Social perspective

- The economic base in Colorado will grow by **\$141.3 million** over the course of the students' working lives. Society will also benefit from **\$3.3 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 Lamar educations during the analysis year, society will receive a cumulative value of **\$9.70** in benefits, for as long as the FY 2015-16 student population at Lamar remains active in the state workforce.

