



# Washington's Community and Technical Colleges

## The Value Proposition

*Washington's community and technical college system is the fourth most productive in the nation when averaging completions to the state's funding per FTE. ~ National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, 2007*

### Adding value: students, society, and taxpayers benefit

Increased education and training leads to lower unemployment and higher earnings levels, which translate into increased tax revenue. These and other factors translate into tremendous economic returns on the public investment in higher education. According to a January 2011 economic impact study released by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc.:

#### Students benefit

Nearly two-thirds of all students pursuing post-secondary education in Washington attend a community or technical college: nearly half a million students each year.

- At career midpoint, community and technical college graduates earn an average of \$49,000 annually — 35 percent more than those with just a high school diploma.
- Washington's community and technical college students enjoy a 21 percent rate of return on their investment of time and money.
- For every dollar students invest in Washington's community and technical colleges, they receive a cumulative \$5.90 in higher future income over the course of their working careers.

#### Society benefits

As they achieve higher levels of education, students of Washington's community and technical colleges are also less likely to smoke or abuse alcohol, draw welfare or unemployment benefits, or commit crimes.

- Washington benefits from improved health and reduced welfare, unemployment, and crime, saving the public some \$51 million per year.
- Every dollar of public spending on community and technical colleges yields an annual return of \$18.70 in avoided social costs and added income for the state.
- Washington's community and technical colleges and former students add \$11 billion annually to the state's economy.

#### Taxpayers benefit

The public investment in community and technical colleges reaps dividends statewide.

- Taxpayers see a 6.4 percent rate of return on their investment in Washington's community and technical colleges.
- The community and technical colleges generate more than \$100 million in added tax revenues annually.
- For every state dollar invested in community and technical colleges, \$1.70 in tax revenue is returned to the state.

#### Total Awards in 2009-10

- |                                                                            |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| • Academic degrees (students with transfer intent)                         | 14,300 |
| • Professional-technical associates, apprenticeship, one-year certificates | 14,460 |
| • Short-term certificates (less than one year)                             | 14,500 |

## Affordable access

Two-year colleges are the open door to higher education, leading to better jobs and better lives. Seventy-five percent of low-income high school graduates choose a community or technical college as their entry point to higher education and as their route to four-year universities.

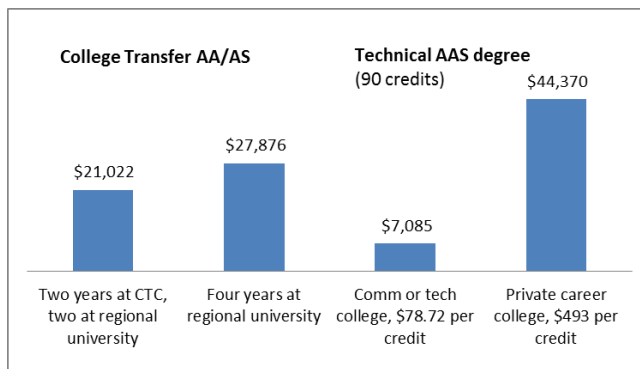
## Lower tuition

Despite recent increases, Washington's tuition remains below the national average for two-year colleges.

Students who start at a two-year college and earn an academic transfer degree or a professional-technical degree can save thousands in tuition dollars and avoid large student loans.

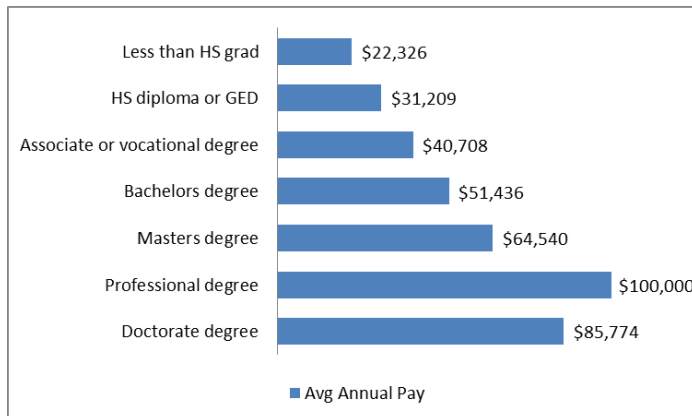
### Tuition savings scenario

**Cost estimate includes only tuition at 2011-12 rates. Local fees, books, housing, and transportation costs vary.**



**Sources:** SBCTC [www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/f\\_tuition.aspx](http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/f_tuition.aspx); ITT Tech [www.itt-tech.edu/campus/download/058.pdf](http://www.itt-tech.edu/campus/download/058.pdf); HECB [www.hecb.wa.gov/PayingForCollege/CostFactors](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/PayingForCollege/CostFactors)

### Annual income by education level



**Source:** "Education pays: More education leads to higher earnings, lower unemployment," *Occupational Outlook Quarterly*, June 2010

## Bachelor's degrees close to home

Many students cannot leave their jobs or families to pursue bachelor's degrees. Seven CTCs now offer eight different Bachelors of Applied Science programs—based on local demand—in areas such as nursing, radiology and imaging, management, applied design and behavioral science. In addition, bachelor's degree programs are available on nearly every CTC campus, through on-campus University Centers or other on-site partnerships with universities.

## University transfer preparation

Starting at a CTC provides convenience and affordability for thousands of Washingtonians and the state's Direct Transfer Agreement—now in its 40th year—offers a smooth transfer path from CTCs to public and private four-year schools.

In 2009-10, 19,000 students transferred from a CTC to a public or private four year college or university, collectively saving more than \$100 million by choosing to start at a CTC.

After transferring, these students do as well as those who started as freshman at our state's public universities. CTC transfer students also graduate at a slightly higher rate than traditional university students, playing a significant role in productivity at our state's four-year schools.

- More than one in every three bachelor's degree-earning students (38 percent) started at a community or technical college.
- One in every three university STEM degree earners (32 percent) are CTC transfer students.

## Running Start

In 2009-10, Washington families saved more than \$41 million when 18,800 high school juniors and seniors took Running Start courses, which count for both high school and college credit.

In turn, this efficiency saved Washington State \$53.2 million in general taxpayer savings. (**Source:** SBCTC *Operating Budget Office, based on 2008-09 HECB state support instructional cost study.*)

Nearly 1,500 Running Start students were able to graduate from high school with an associate degree already in hand, saving two years' time and thousands of dollars off their path to a bachelor's degree.