



The
Community
Colleges
of Illinois

FOR EVERY
STUDENT

FOR EVERY
COMMUNITY



AN ECONOMIC IMPACT FACT SHEET

A RETURN ON INVESTMENT

for Illinois Students, Businesses,
and Local Communities

Illinois' 48 community colleges boost the economy of local communities. They are important sources of revenue and employment for the communities and regions they serve. These direct impacts ripple through the economy creating additional jobs, payrolls, and other economic activity.

The total economic output
of Illinois community colleges
on the statewide economy
in fiscal year 2020
is estimated at

\$3.5 billion
and
43,316 jobs.

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES meet the
needs of business and industry.

Illinois community colleges support local workforce and economic development services through employer and business engagement. During academic year 2020, Illinois community colleges worked with nearly

9,800 unique
employers.



AN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION

increases earnings for workers.

Obtaining a certificate or degree at a community college is an investment for students that results in higher earnings



with an average annual rate of return of nearly 27%.

Short-term certificates provide students with a quick and focused program of study that can lead to immediate employment. Short-term programs that yield considerable annual earnings three years after completion include:

 **Electrical and Power Transmission Installers**
\$69,216

 **Fire Protection**
\$54,108

 **HVAC and Refrigerator Maintenance**
\$48,708

 **Criminal Justice and Corrections**
\$43,902

 **Computer Systems Networking and Telecommunications**
\$43,554

 **Ground Transportation (Truck Driving)**
\$42,492



GRADUATES FROM ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES obtain stable employment upon completion.

More than 84% of students who earn Long-Term Certificates or an Associate in Applied Science are employed in their chosen career field within a year of graduation.

Graduates with an Associate Degree (i.e., Transfer Degrees to a four-year institution) have an employment rate of 85% after five years and this increases to 92% ten years after graduation.

After adjusting for inflation, the class of 2009 community college graduates (Long-Term Certificates and Associate Degrees), earned \$54,516 ten years after graduating, representing an average annual growth rate of 21.2%

The earnings growth is most significant in the first few years after graduation, and there was an immediate increase of 39.5% for the first year after graduation.

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES are committed to equity.

When isolating graduates from Long-Term Certificate and Associate in Applied Science programs and examining earnings one year prior to completion to three years after,

African American students increased earnings 88%.

Latinx students increased their earnings by 119%.

