

SOCIETY'S INVESTMENT

The Economic Value of Thomas Nelson Community College | September 2016

Benefits created by Thomas Nelson extend to far more people than just its students. As students and employers enjoy higher earnings and increased output, society as a whole benefits from an expanded economy and a range of savings associated with the students' improved quality of life.

THOMAS NELSON RAISES PROSPERITY IN THE STATE

- Students earn more because of the skills and qualifications they acquire at Thomas Nelson. Further, employers earn more because the added skills of the students they hire make their businesses more productive.
- Together, increases in earnings and business output stimulate corresponding increases in earnings and employment throughout the state. Over their working lives, Thomas Nelson's 2014-15 student population will increase the state's economic base by **\$1.5 billion**.

THOMAS NELSON IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

- As Thomas Nelson students achieve higher levels of education, they are statistically more likely to develop good health habits. This leads to a present value of **\$22.6 million** in savings to students and to society as a whole for medical treatment related to smoking, alcoholism, obesity, drug abuse, and mental disorders.
- Students enjoy better employment opportunities as a result of their education at Thomas Nelson. This makes them less likely to require earnings assistance and less likely to commit crimes. These effects translate to a present value of **\$144 thousand** in unemployment-related savings and **\$5.8 million** in law enforcement savings to society as a whole.
- Altogether, savings to society amount to a present value of **\$28.5 million**, equal to the sum of avoided costs related to health, crime, and unemployment.

BENEFITS TO SOCIETY OUTWEIGH SOCIAL COSTS

- In FY 2014-15, society invested **\$153.4 million** in Thomas Nelson educations. This includes all Thomas Nelson expenditures, all student expenditures, and all student opportunity costs. In return for this investment, society as a whole will receive a present value of **\$1.6 billion** in benefits, the sum of the increased economic base and social savings that Thomas Nelson's 2014-15 student population will generate in the state.
- For every dollar spent on Thomas Nelson educations, society as a whole in Virginia will receive a cumulative value of **\$10.20** in benefits, for as long as Thomas Nelson's 2014-15 students remain active in the state workforce.

PRESENT VALUE OF SOCIAL SAVINGS (THOUSANDS)

