

Community Colleges are North Carolina's workforce engine. **More than 40 percent of North Carolina wage earners have been a community college student in the past ten years**, and former community college students contribute \$19.6 billion in added state income in 2012-13 – the equivalent of 322,000 new jobs. For every \$1 investment by taxpayers, \$4.10 was gained in added taxes and public-sector gains – a 14.7% return on investment¹.

Address the Instructor Salary Crisis

The **workforce engine will stall** if community college **instructors continue to be among the worst paid in the Southeast**. Attracting and retaining community college instructors – the molders of North Carolina's future workforce – is becoming increasingly difficult at current pay levels as these same instructors become prime targets for employers seeking to fill job openings as the economy rebounds. **Enabling community colleges to recover \$59 million in current management flexibility cuts and invest those funds into salaries will help rectify this crisis situation and move North Carolina to the mid-point in the Southeast for faculty salaries.**

Rev Up Year-Round Production

As recommended in Governor McCrory's budget proposal, **North Carolina's Community Colleges need to be in year-round production**, just like North Carolina's businesses. **Funding community colleges for year-round instruction, including the summer**, will accelerate the talent pipeline to North Carolina businesses experiencing skill shortages, accelerate completion rates for community college students, help colleges retain faculty who would prefer to work year-round and generate state budget savings as university students obtain credits at community college funding rates.

Tuition Increases Should Only Fuel Community College Education

Any increases in community college student tuition should support their education. Community college students, most from working-class families, have seen their tuition increase 44% in the past six years. If they are to face another tuition increase, **it should only be applied to enhance their education.**

¹ Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), <http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/emsi-study>