



# STUDENTS' INVESTMENT

The Economic Value of Santiago Canyon College's Continuing Education Program | April 2020

Education has the power to raise students' earning potential and increase their employability. In return for their investment in education, the CE program's FY 2018-19 students will receive higher wages throughout their working lives.

## EDUCATION RETURNS VALUE FOR MONEY SPENT

- To meet the costs of going to the center, students rely on their own earnings or on the earnings of their families. The CE program's FY 2018-19 students paid a present value of **\$0.1 thousand** to cover the cost of books and supplies for FY 2018-19.
- While at college, students spend time focusing on their studies, time they would have otherwise spent working or with their families and friends. For the CE program students, the value of time and earnings forgone was estimated to be **\$35.4 million**.
- In return for the costs of going to the center, students will receive a stream of higher lifetime earnings. These wage gains will fully recover the money that students invested and will continue to grow throughout the students' working lives.

## EDUCATION INCREASES EARNING POTENTIAL

- Average annual earnings increase as students attain higher levels of education. On average, a certificate completer in California will earn \$38,600 at the midpoint of their career, **\$4,800** more than someone with a high school diploma.
- A certificate completer will earn **\$965,000** (undiscounted)

over their working lifetime, an increase of \$120,000 compared to someone with a high school diploma.

## EDUCATION IS A KEY INVESTMENT FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- The CE program's FY 2018-19 students will receive an average annual internal rate of return of **25.2%** on their investment in the center. This internal rate of return continues throughout their working lives.
- Had students and their families taken the money they spent on education and invested it instead in a standard bank savings account, they would have received a rate of return of less than 2%.
- On average, the CE program's FY 2018-19 students will receive a cumulative **\$3.60** in higher future earnings for every \$1 they invested in their education.

## AVERAGE EARNINGS BY EDUCATION LEVEL AT CAREER MIDPOINT IN CALIFORNIA

