



BUILDING LOCAL ECONOMIES OF SCALE:

THE IMPACT OF TRIBAL COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES IN RURAL AMERICA

AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM



NEBRASKA TRIBAL COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

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AT-A-GLANCE: NEBRASKA TCUs ECONOMIC IMPACT



Impact of Nebraska TCUs

Nebraska Tribal Colleges & Universities (TCUs) generate more benefits for national taxpayers than the TCUs cost to support. (FY2022-2023 Data)



Nebraska TCUs

There are two (2) Tribal Colleges located in the state of Nebraska out of 35 total Tribal Colleges & Universities across the nation. Those two colleges include: Little Priest Tribal College and Nebraska Indian Community College.



Return on Investment

For every dollar of public money invested in Nebraska TCUs, national taxpayers will receive a cumulative value of \$1.60 over the course of the students' working lives. ***At the state level, Nebraska taxpayers will receive \$3.60 for every dollar of public money invested.*** (FY2022-2023 Data)



\$19.2 Million & 337 Jobs

Nebraska TCUs added \$19.2 million in income to the Nebraska economy during the analysis year, equal to the sum of operations and construction spending impacts; the student spending impact; and the alumni impact. The \$19.2 million impact supported 337 state jobs, using the jobs-to-sales ratios specific to each industry in the state. (FY2022-2023 Data)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nebraska Tribal Colleges and Universities¹ (Nebraska TCUs) create value in many ways. The colleges play a key role in helping students increase their employability and achieve their individual potential. The colleges draw students to the state, generating new dollars and opportunities for Nebraska. The colleges provide students with the education, training, and skills they need to have fulfilling and prosperous careers. Furthermore, the colleges are places for students to meet new people, increase their self-confidence, and promote their overall health and well-being.

Nebraska TCUs influence both the lives of students and the state economy. The colleges support a variety of industries in Nebraska, serve state businesses, and benefit society as a whole from an expanded economy and improved quality of life. Additionally, the benefits created by Nebraska TCUs extend to the local, state, and federal government through increased tax revenues and public sector savings.

This study measures the economic impacts created by Nebraska TCUs on the business community and the benefits the colleges generate in return for the investments made by their key stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. The following two analyses are presented:

- Economic impact analysis
- Investment analysis

All results reflect employee, student, and financial data, provided by the colleges, for fiscal year (FY) 2022-23. Impacts on the Nebraska economy are reported under the economic impact analysis and are measured in terms of added income. The returns on investment to students, taxpayers, and society are reported under the investment analysis.

¹ Nebraska TCUs consist of Little Priest Tribal College and Nebraska Indian Community College.

NEBRASKA TCUs ECONOMIC IMPACT SUMMARY

Nebraska TCUs promote economic growth in Nebraska through their direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of students and state businesses. The colleges serve as employers and buyers of goods and services for their day-to-day and construction operations. The colleges’ activities attract students from outside Nebraska, whose expenditures benefit state vendors. In addition, the colleges are primary sources of higher education to Nebraska residents and suppliers of trained workers to state industries, enhancing overall productivity in the state workforce.

TCU OPERATIONS SPENDING IMPACT

Nebraska TCUs add economic value to Nebraska as employers of state residents and large-scale buyers of goods and services. In FY 2022-23, the colleges employed 189 full-time and part-time faculty and staff, 60% of whom lived in Nebraska. Total payroll at Nebraska TCUs was \$7.2 million, much of which was spent in the state on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. In addition, the colleges spent \$5.3 million on expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services (excluding construction).

The operations spending of Nebraska TCUs added \$7.9 million in income to the state during the analysis year. This figure represents the colleges’ payroll, the multiplier effects generated by the in-state spending of the colleges and their employees, and a downward adjustment to account for funding that the colleges received from state sources. The \$7.9 million in added income is equivalent to supporting 177 jobs in the state.

IMPACTS CREATED BY NEBRASKA TCUs

(FY2022-23)

\$7.9 million

Operations Spending Impact

\$0.9 million

Construction Spending Impact

\$0.6 million

Student Spending Impact

\$9.7 million

Alumni Impact

\$19.2 million

Total Impact

337

Total Jobs Supported

NEBRASKA TCUs ECONOMIC IMPACT SUMMARY

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING IMPACT

Nebraska TCUs invest in capital projects each year to maintain facilities, create additional capacities, and meet growing educational demands. While the amount varies from year to year, these quick infusions of income and jobs have a substantial impact on the state economy. In FY 2022-23, the colleges' construction spending generated \$926.9 thousand in added income, which is equivalent to supporting 10 jobs.

STUDENT SPENDING IMPACT

Some in-state students, referred to as retained students, would have left Nebraska if not for the existence of Nebraska TCUs. While attending the colleges, these retained students spent money on groceries, accommodation, transportation, and other household expenses. Also attributable to Nebraska TCUs is the spending of in-state students who would have remained in Nebraska even if the colleges had not existed. Because of the federal scholarships and grants these students received, they spend more money in the state while attending college than they would have had they not attended the colleges. In total, Nebraska TCU student spending generated \$616.1 thousand in added income for the state economy in FY 2022-23, which supported 12 jobs in Nebraska.



Photos courtesy of Little Priest Tribal College and Nebraska Indian Community College.

NEBRASKA TCUs ECONOMIC IMPACT SUMMARY

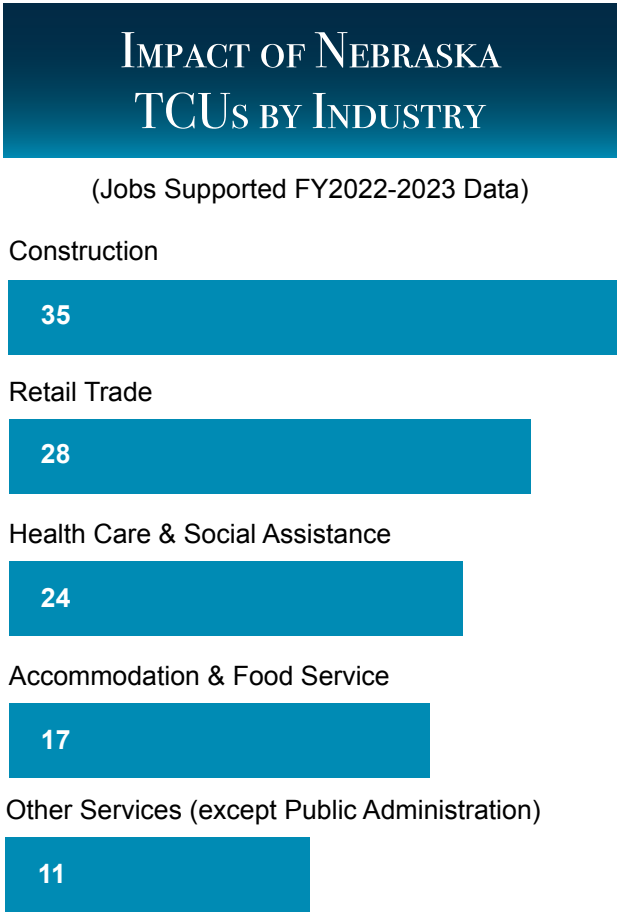
ALUMNI IMPACT

The education and training the colleges provide for state residents has the greatest impact. Since the colleges were established, students have studied at Nebraska TCUs and entered the state workforce with greater knowledge and new skills. Today, thousands of former Nebraska TCU students are employed in Nebraska. As a result of their education from Nebraska TCUs, the students receive higher earnings and increase the productivity of the businesses that employ them. In FY 2022-23, Nebraska TCU alumni generated \$9.7 million in added income for the state economy, which is equivalent to supporting 138 jobs.

TOTAL TCU ECONOMIC IMPACT IN NEBRASKA

Nebraska TCUs added \$19.2 million in income to the Nebraska economy during the analysis year, equal to the sum of operations and construction spending impacts; the student spending impact; and the alumni impact.

The total impact of Nebraska TCUs can also be expressed in terms of jobs supported. The \$19.2 million impact supported 337 state jobs, using the jobs-to-sales ratios specific to each industry in the state. In addition, the \$19.2 million, or 337 supported jobs, stemmed from different industry sectors. For instance, among non-education industry sectors, the spending of Nebraska TCUs and their students and the activities of their alumni in the Construction industry sector supported 35 jobs in FY 2022-23. If the colleges did not exist, these impacts would not have been generated in Nebraska.

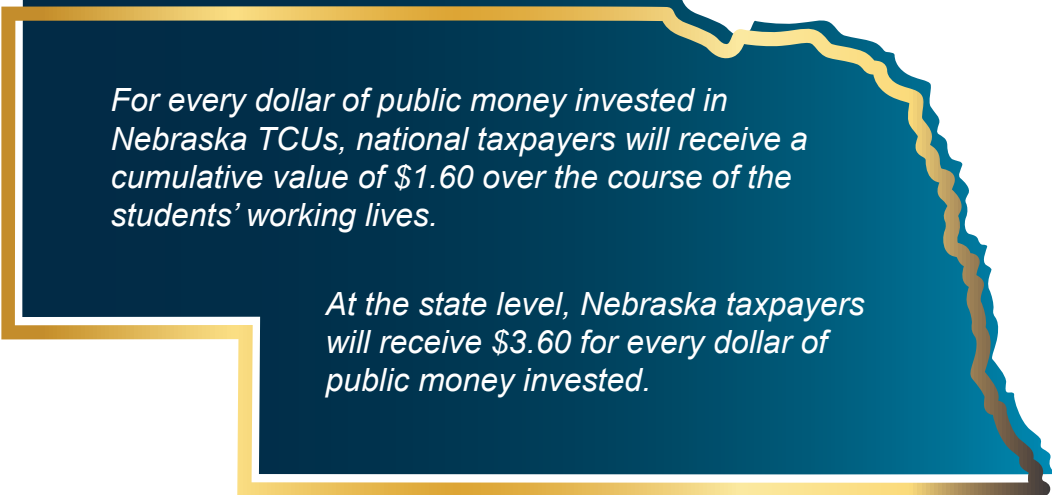


INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

An investment analysis evaluates the costs associated with a proposed venture against its expected benefits. The analysis presented here evaluates Nebraska TCUs as an investment from the perspectives of students, taxpayers, and society. As with the economic impact analysis, this analysis considers only FY 2022-23 activities.

TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE

Nebraska TCUs generate more in national tax revenue than they receive. These benefits to taxpayers consist primarily of taxes that the government will collect from the added revenue created in the nation and state. As Nebraska TCU students will earn more, they will make higher tax payments throughout their working lives. Students' employers will also make higher tax payments as they increase their output and purchases of goods and services. At the national level, the government will have collected a present value of \$19.1 million in added taxes by the end of the FY 2022-23 students' working lives. At the state level, Nebraska will have collected a present value of \$2.8 million in added taxes. Benefits to taxpayers will also consist of savings generated by the improved lifestyles of students attending Nebraska TCUs and the corresponding reduced government services. Education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes. The education that Nebraska TCU students receive will generate savings in three main categories: 1) health care, 2) justice system, and 3) income assistance. Improved health will lower students' demand for national health care services. In addition, costs related to the justice system will decrease. Nebraska TCU students will be more employable, so their reduced demand for income assistance such as welfare and



For every dollar of public money invested in Nebraska TCUs, national taxpayers will receive a cumulative value of \$1.60 over the course of the students' working lives.

At the state level, Nebraska taxpayers will receive \$3.60 for every dollar of public money invested.

unemployment benefits will benefit taxpayers. Altogether, the present value of the benefits associated with an education through Nebraska TCUs will generate \$1.9 million in savings to national taxpayers. Taxpayers in Nebraska will experience \$501.5 thousand in government savings.

Total national taxpayer benefits amount to \$21.0 million, the present value sum of the added tax revenue and public sector savings. Taxpayer costs are \$13.5 million, equal to the amount of government funding Nebraska TCUs received in FY 2022-23. These benefits and costs yield a benefit-cost ratio of 1.6. This means that for every dollar of public money invested in Nebraska TCUs in FY 2022-23, taxpayers will receive a cumulative present value of \$1.60 over the course of the students' working lives.

INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE (CONTINUED)

In other words, Nebraska TCUs generate more benefits for national taxpayers than they cost to support. Although it is not recommended to directly compare benefit-cost ratios between institutions since many factors influence them, any benefit-cost ratio above 1.0 is significant and indicates that the institutions generate a surplus of benefits. Additionally, the average annual internal rate of return for national taxpayers is 2.7%, which compares favorably to other long-term investments in the public sector.

From the state perspective, Nebraska taxpayer benefits amount to \$3.3 million, which will accrue in the future as long as the FY 2022-23 student population of Nebraska TCUs remains in the state workforce. Taxpayers in Nebraska provided Nebraska TCUs \$928.9 thousand in funding in FY 2022-23. For every dollar of public money invested in the colleges, Nebraska taxpayers will receive \$3.60 in return over the course of FY 2022-23 students’ working lives. The average annual rate of return for state taxpayers is 14.4%.

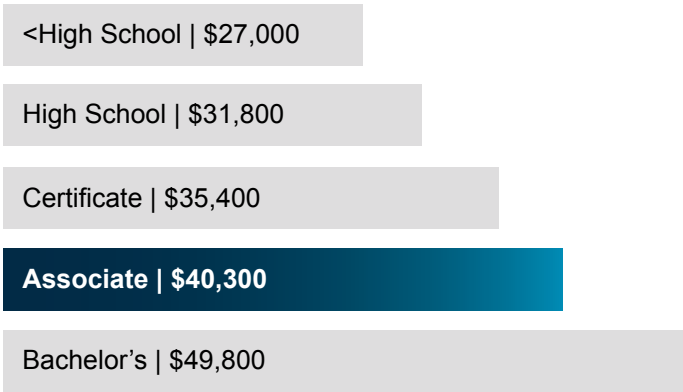
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

In FY 2022-23, Nebraska TCUs served 1,074 credit and 290 non-credit students. In order to attend the colleges, the students paid for tuition, fees, books, and supplies. They also gave up money they would have otherwise earned had they been working instead of attending college. The total investment made by Nebraska TCU students in FY 2022-23 amounted to a present value of \$1.3 million, equal to \$1.2 million in out-of-pocket expenses and \$38.5 thousand in forgone time and money.

of the cumulative higher future earnings that Nebraska TCU FY 2022-23 students will receive over their working careers is \$15.1 million.

The average associate degree graduate from Nebraska TCUs will see an increase in earnings of **\$8,500 each year** compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Nebraska.

In return for their investment, Nebraska TCU students will receive a stream of higher future earnings that will continue to grow throughout their working lives. For example, the average Nebraska TCU associate degree graduate from FY 2022-23 will see annual earnings \$8,500 higher than a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in Nebraska. Over a working lifetime, the benefits of the associate degree over a high school diploma will amount to an undiscounted value of \$365,500 in higher earnings per graduate. The present value



INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

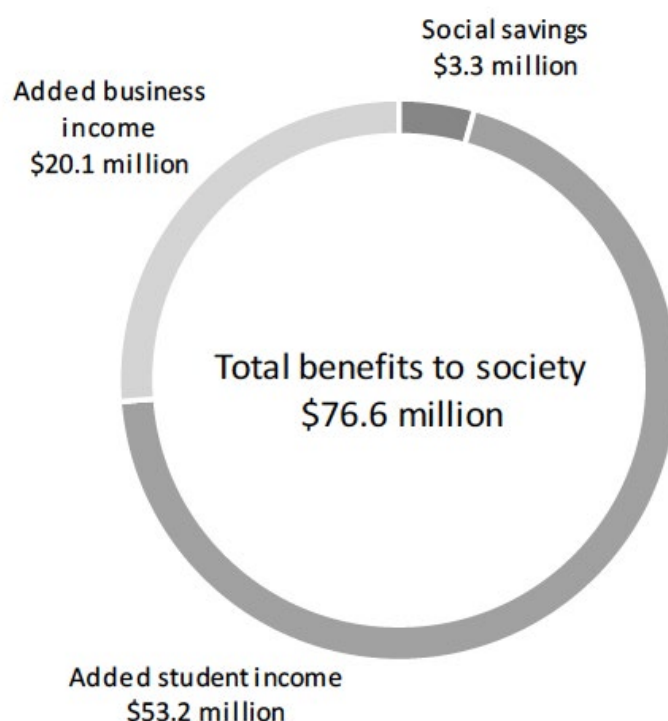
Society as a whole benefits from the presence of Nebraska TCUs in two major ways. Primarily, society benefits from an increased economic base in the nation. This is attributed to the added income from students' increased lifetime earnings (added student income) and increased business output (added business income), which raise economic prosperity in the U.S.

Benefits to society also consist of the savings generated by the improved lifestyles of Nebraska TCU students. As discussed in the previous section, education is statistically correlated with a variety of lifestyle changes that generate social savings. Note that these costs are avoided by the consumers but are distinct from the costs avoided by the taxpayers outlined above. Health care savings include avoided medical costs associated with smoking, obesity, substance abuse, and depression. Justice system savings include avoided costs to the government and society due to less judicial activity. Income assistance savings include reduced welfare and unemployment claims.

Altogether, the social benefits of Nebraska TCUs equal a present value of \$76.6 million. These benefits include \$53.2 million in added student income, \$20.1 million in added business income, as well as \$3.3 million in social savings related to health, the justice system, and income assistance. People in the U.S. invested a present value total of \$14.9 million in Nebraska TCUs in FY 2022-23. The cost includes all government funding and student costs.

The benefit-cost ratio for society is 5.2, equal to the \$76.6 million in benefits divided by the \$14.9 million in costs. In other words, for every dollar invested in

SOCIAL BENEFITS FROM NEBRASKA TCUs NATIONWIDE



Nebraska TCUs, people in the U.S. will receive a cumulative value of \$5.20 in benefits. The benefits of this investment will occur for as long as Nebraska TCU FY 2022-23 students remain employed in the workforce.

INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT ANALYSIS RESULTS

The results of the analysis demonstrate that Nebraska TCUs are a strong investment for all major stakeholder groups students, taxpayers, and society. As shown, students receive a great return for their investments in an education through Nebraska TCUs. At the same time, taxpayers' investment in Nebraska TCUs returns more to state and federal government budgets than it costs and creates a wide range of social benefits throughout the U.S.

NATIONAL TAXPAYERS

\$21.0 million

Present value benefits

\$13.5 million

Present value costs

\$7.5 million

Net present value

1.6 2.7%

Benefit-cost ratio Rate of return

STATE TAXPAYERS

\$3.3 million

Present value benefits

\$0.9 million

Present value costs

\$2.4 million

Net present value

3.6 14.4%

Benefit-cost ratio Rate of return

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

\$15.1 million

Present value benefits

\$1.3 million

Present value costs

\$13.8 million

Net present value

12.1 27.8%

Benefit-cost ratio Rate of return

SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

\$76.6 million

Present value benefits

\$14.9 million

Present value costs

\$61.8 million

Net present value

5.2 n/a*

Benefit-cost ratio Rate of return

* The rate of return is not reported for the social perspective because the beneficiaries are not necessarily the same as the original investors.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study demonstrate that Nebraska TCUs create value from multiple perspectives. The colleges benefit state businesses by increasing consumer spending in the state and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. Nebraska TCUs enrich the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. The colleges benefit taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services. Finally, Nebraska TCUs benefit society as a whole by creating a more prosperous economy and generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students.



ABOUT THE STUDY

This study is part of a series of Economic Impact Studies conducted in partnership with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and Lightcast. Lightcast provides colleges and universities with labor market data that helps create better outcomes for students, businesses, and communities. Our data, which cover more than 99% of the U.S. workforce, are compiled from a wide variety of government sources, job postings, and online profiles and resumes. Visit lightcast.io/solutions/education to learn more or connect with Lightcast.

Data and assumptions used in the study are based on several sources, including the FY 2022-23

academic and financial reports from Nebraska TCUs, industry and employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, outputs of Lightcast's Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model, and a variety of studies and surveys relating education to social behavior. The study applies a conservative methodology and follows standard practice using only the most recognized indicators of economic impact and investment effectiveness.

For a full description of the data and approach used in the study, please contact the American Indian Higher Education Consortium for a copy of the main report.

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