

## A Smart Investment in Lean Budget Times

By supporting its 16 community colleges, the State of Maryland invests in people who are key to our economic future. Here's how.

### Community colleges stimulate the economy, benefiting all Marylanders.\*

- For every tax dollar spent on community colleges, taxpayers get **\$2 back** in higher tax revenues and avoided social costs attributable to education.
- Due to the effects of college operations, student spending, and enhanced productivity of past students, **the Maryland economy receives roughly \$11.6 billion** in income each year -- about 4.5% of the State's total annual income.

### College degrees boost wages.\*

- Compared to a student with no high school diploma, a student with a 1-year certificate earns **17% more** and a student with an associate's degree earns **39% more**.
- For every \$1 students invest in community colleges, they get **\$5 back in higher earnings** throughout their careers.
- Each credit earned at a community college **boosts average annual income by \$174**.

### Investing in community colleges is investing in business.

- **1 in 13 Maryland workers take classes** at a community college in technology, health care, world languages, and other workforce skills.
- About **94% of community college students stay** in Maryland, rather than relocate out-of-state.
- Community colleges are the **primary source of Adult Basic Education (ABE)** for Maryland residents.

### Community colleges continue the investment in K-12 schools.

- As Maryland increases spending on K-12 schools, consider that **6 out of 10 high school graduates who remain in Maryland to attend college go on to a community college**.

### Funding stability for community colleges is just now taking hold.

- Historically, the State's support for community colleges has been erratic, but recent commitment to its **funding formula has begun to stabilize**.
- State funding per full-time equivalent student has declined, but proposed FY2009 funding would **restore funding to the FY2002 level**.

### Community colleges become more important in a difficult economy.

- More students typically seek out community colleges in economic downturns, but **substantial space deficits** (because facility construction has lagged behind enrollment increases) may curtail the community colleges' ability to serve them.
- For many Marylanders, community colleges are the **only available postsecondary option**.
- Community colleges are the **most affordable segment of postsecondary education** in Maryland. Tuition and fees cost less than half that of public four year institutions.
- Nearly **400,000 credit and non-credit students** attend community colleges each year.
- Community colleges **enroll more than half** of all Maryland residents attending college in the state.

### Support the Investment: Support Governor O'Malley's FY2009 budget!

The Governor's FY2009 Operating Budget fully funds community colleges under the statutory funding formulas (Cade and BCCC), providing an increase of 12% over FY2008. The Governor's FY2009 Capital Budget provides \$81 million, which covers projects at 13 community colleges. A total of \$104 million is needed to fund all top priority projects at 14 community colleges.

For more information, visit the Maryland Association of Community Colleges' web site at [www.mdacc.org](http://www.mdacc.org). Click on "Publications" for the economic impact study and "Legislative Initiatives."

\* Source: "The Economic Contributions of Maryland Community Colleges," EMSI/CCbenefits, Inc., December 2007