

Press Release

September 28, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kai Stearns, 714-808-4829 or kstearns@nocccd.edu

Study Shows NOCCCD Adds \$2 Billion to Orange County Economy

Anaheim, Calif. – In summer of 2023, the Orange County Regional Consortium in collaboration with Lightcast, a labor market analytics company, released an updated Economic Impact Study highlighting the North Orange County Community College District’s (NOCCCD) influence on both the lives of students and the county economy. NOCCCD’s three campuses – Cypress College, Fullerton College, and North Orange Continuing Education – support a variety of industries and businesses in Orange County as well as help California as a whole in terms of an expanded economy and improved quality of life. The benefits created by NOCCCD extend to the state and local government through increased tax revenues and public sector savings.

The study measures the economic impacts created by NOCCCD 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. In fiscal year 2020-21, NOCCCD added \$2 billion in income to the Orange County economy and supported 19,769 jobs. This means that one out of every 118 jobs in Orange County is supported by the activities of the colleges and their students. The results of the analysis demonstrated that NOCCCD is a strong investment for all three major stakeholder groups and creates value from multiple perspectives. For every dollar invested in NOCCCD, students gain \$6.20 in lifetime earnings, taxpayers gain \$2 in added tax revenue and public sector savings, and society gains \$11.30 in added income and social savings.

At the September 26, 2023 NOCCCD Board of Trustees Meeting, OCRC Regional Chair **Dr. Alex Davis** and Lightcast Senior Consultant **Sterling Smith** presented results of the study to the Board of Trustees. Chancellor **Byron D. Clift Breland** commented about the presentation, “NOCCCD benefits Orange County businesses by increasing consumer spending in the county and supplying a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. Additionally, NOCCCD enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. The colleges benefit state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services. This confirms the indispensable value of NOCCCD to Orange County as well as our local region, but an analogous study conducted for nearly any community college anywhere in the country would arrive at similar findings. When it comes to higher education, and public spending in general, you would be hard pressed to find a better investment than your local community college.”

For the full study, executive summary, fact sheet, and presentation to the NOCCCD Board of Trustees, please visit: <https://nocccd.edu/economic-impact-study>.

NOCCCD Background

Two of the state’s premier colleges and most extensive continuing education program combine to provide the quality educational programming of the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD). Nearly 62,000 students enroll each term at Cypress College, Fullerton College, and North Orange Continuing Education. College students are able to shape their futures in programs leading to associate degrees, vocational certificates, and transfer opportunities. Life-long learning also is possible in continuing education programs that range from high school completion and basic skills mastery through an array of vocational training and self-development courses. The NOCCCD campuses serve an area of over one million diverse people – each pursuing their own, unique ambitions.

###