

## News Release

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### **Please release immediately**

A new report on higher education in Georgia shows that recent graduates of Dalton State College earn, on average, over \$7,200 more per year than their counterparts who have earned only a high school diploma.

Over the course of a working career, the average graduate of a public college or university in Georgia can expect to earn nearly \$1 million more than a high school-educated neighbor.

These are among the findings in a study called the “The Value of University System of Georgia Education,” released today by the USG’s Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP). The report shows that the total value of increased earnings resulting from college degrees added \$1.25 billion to the state’s economy in 1998 – the most recent year for which data was available.

The study looked at nearly 90,000 USG students who graduated between 1993-1997 and found that these graduates had a widespread impact on the state, bringing at least a million dollars per year in additional economic impact to 93 of Georgia’s 159 counties.

The University System’s impact was more than \$10 million in 17 counties, mostly in Atlanta and Georgia’s mid-sized cities. Counties gaining the most educational value through the employment of graduates of the University System of Georgia include Whitfield County, with a \$10.1 million impact.

“The economic value of earning a college degree has always been self-evident,” said Dr. Jim Burran, DSC President. “Not only does an individual’s earning potential rise significantly over his or her lifetime, but there are numerous intangible benefits as well.

“Studies have repeatedly shown the dramatic link between average income and educational attainment. That’s never been more obvious than in today’s sophisticated economy. A college education also affects the quality of life in our community, our state, and our nation in general.”

The study confirms that the University System of Georgia is a major source of recent college graduates in Georgia – about half of all Georgians who hold postsecondary degrees were educated by a USG institution.

Among the report’s other findings, the study found that significant shortages of labor exist in 12 specialties, among them elementary and kindergarten teachers, registered nurses, medical records and health information technicians, and medical and clinical laboratory technicians.

Full copies of “The Value of University System of Georgia Education” may be downloaded from the ICAPP website at: <http://www.icapp.org/publications.htm>.

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