



COLLEGE RELATIONS

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Contact: Caroline Fielding (229) 430-6708 fieldinc@darton.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**New Study on Value of a College Degree shows Payoff for
Darton Graduates & Dougherty County**

ALBANY— A new report on higher education in Georgia shows that, for recent graduates of Darton College, a two-year associate's degree could boost their annual salaries an average of \$7,403 above what a high-school graduate could expect to make. The direct economic impact of University System graduates employed in Dougherty County totaled \$17.3 million in 1998 (the most recent year for which data was available). This figure includes the graduates from Albany State University and Darton College.

Unlike past studies of the economic impact of the University System of Georgia institutions on the communities where they are located, this study conducted by the Georgia Institute of Technology analyzed the earnings of Darton College students who graduated between 1993 and 1997. The researchers' methodology compared the annual earnings of higher-education graduates to the annual earnings of high school graduates to determine the dollar value associated with education.

The total 1998 wages of the 908 Darton graduates included in the study were \$25,852,419 with \$6,721,629 attributed to the graduates' college degree. The average salary of the graduates was \$28,472. This impact represents one year's worth of benefits (1998) to a single cohort (1993-1997 graduates). A more complete cost-benefit analysis would extend

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Value of a College Degree

these benefits over a full 40-year career. Benefits thus could be as large as 40 times the total impact indicated in this report.

The report found that the value of a college education will continue to grow as the number of jobs requiring a degree will increase to 25 percent by 2010. The Department of Labor forecasts that the top two occupations with the most projected new jobs are the same in Georgia as in the nation—registered nurses, and computer support specialists. Darton College supplies well-educated graduates in each of these top occupations.

The study also examined higher education-related occupations with annual shortfalls of more than 100 positions. Four health care occupations requiring higher education have significant shortfalls. Three are at the associate's degree level—registered nurses, medical records and health information technicians and medical and clinical laboratory technicians. Darton College offers degrees or certificates in each of these high demand areas. There is also a shortage of pharmacists, who typically must have bachelor's degrees. Darton College does offer the first two-years, or pre-pharmacy, for individuals who want to earn a four-year bachelor's degree.

Full copies of "The Value of University System of Georgia Education" may be downloaded from: <http://www.icapp.org/publications.htm>. For more information about programs at Darton College, contact the Admissions Office at 229-430-6740. The office is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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