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Fort Valley State University Graduates Rank High In University System of Georgia Study

Fort Valley -- (Nov. 5) Of the 1.25 billion dollars the University System of Georgia added to the state's economy, in 1998 FVSU contributed \$10,957,098 ranking 19 among the 34 higher education institutions in the System.

According to a new report on higher education in Georgia, it was determined that a college degree for recent graduates of the University System of Georgia (USG) is worth an average of \$14,000 a year more than a high-school graduate could expect to make. 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.

The average wage for a Fort Valley State University graduate in 1998 for that period was \$29,243 dollars annually and the average wage for a graduate of a system institution was \$36,074. For a FVSU graduate, 41% of their annual salary is directly attributable to the higher education degree received from Fort Valley State, which is two percentage points higher than the system average. Fort Valley State University sends more students of African decent to medical and dental school than any other school in the University System of Georgia.

Commissioned by the USG's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP), the "Value of University System of Georgia Education" study was conducted by researchers at the *Georgia Institute of Technology*. The authors analyzed the earnings of nearly 90,000 University System students who graduated between 1993 and 1997 and found that, overall, the increased earnings resulting from their college degrees added \$1.25 billion to the state's economy during 1998 the most recent year for which data was available. These graduates had widespread impact on the state, bringing at least a million dollars per year in additional economic impact to more than half of Georgia's 159 counties.

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