Northern New Mexico College plays a significant role in the local economy and is a sound investment from multiple perspectives. Students benefit from improved lifestyles and increased earnings. Taxpayers benefit from a larger economy and lower social costs. Finally, the community as a whole benefits from increased job and investment opportunities, higher business revenues, greater availability of public funds, and an eased tax burden.

**Investment analysis**

**Student Perspective**
- NNMC served 3,130 credit students and 521 non-credit students in the 2010–11 reporting year.
- Education increases lifetime income. The average income of someone with a bachelor's degree in North Central New Mexico is 94% higher than that of someone with a high school diploma.

**Students enjoy a 21.5% rate of return on their investment in NNMC**
- Throughout his or her working career, the average NNMC student's discounted lifetime income increases by $6.80 for every dollar invested in NNMC.
- Students enjoy an attractive 21.5% average rate of return on their NNMC educational investment, recovering all costs (including tuition, fees, and forgone wages) in 7.1 years.

**Social Perspective**
- Higher earnings of NNMC students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in New Mexico by about $21.1 million each year.
- New Mexico will see avoided social costs amounting to $1.7 million per year due to NNMC students, including savings associated with improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.

**Taxpayer Perspective**
- State government allocated approximately $10.2 million in support of NNMC in FY 2010–11.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of $3.80 over the course of students’ working careers (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided costs).
- State and local governments see a rate of return of 13.2% on their support for NNMC. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

**Economic Growth Analysis**

**College Operations Effect**
- The North Central New Mexico economy annually receives roughly $11.7 million in income due to NNMC operations. This is a conservative figure adjusted to account for monies that leave the economy or are withdrawn from the economy in support of the college.

**Student and Visitor Spending Effect**
- Non-local students who attend NNMC spend money for room and board, transportation, and other personal expenses. The off-campus expenditures of these students generates approximately $119,500 in added income in North Central New Mexico each year.
- Visitors who come to the college from outside the region also spend money for lodging, food, and other personal expenses. This creates an estimated $118,400 in added income each year.

**Productivity Effect**
- The current North Central New Mexico economy embodies an estimated 988,700 credit hours that have accumulated over the past 30-year period as thousands of former NNMC students (completers and non-completers) enter the workforce year after year.
- NNMC skills translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of NNMC credit hours in the workforce amounts to around $165.8 million each year.

**Total Effect**
- Altogether, the average annual added income due to the activities of NNMC and its former students equals $177.7 million. This is approximately equivalent to 7.5% of the regional economy.