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# Maricopa Community Colleges add \$7.3B to Arizona economy each year

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Former students of the **Maricopa Community Colleges** added \$7.3 billion in income to the Arizona economy in 2013-2014, according to a new study released today.

The report, Demonstrating the Economic Value of Maricopa County Community College District, was conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists [International](#), which provides economic impact studies and labor market data to educational institutions.

This data is part of EMSI's broader look at the impact of community colleges across Arizona, which found that Arizona's community colleges created \$14.5 billion in economic impact for the state during 2013-2014. That represents 5.6 percent of Arizona's gross state product.

[Jack Lunsford](#), CEO of Arizona Community College Coordinating Council, said that's a reflection of \$1.2 billion in direct payroll and operational expenditures for the more than 10,000 community college employees statewide.

"That's basically a calculation that says students who get improved education can realize increased wages and they also have a decreased reliance on the need for public services or will be less inclined to be incarcerated where we're having to cover those costs," he said.

MCCCD Chancellor [Rufus Glasper](#) said the report is verification that his 10-college system is the largest provider of workforce training in Arizona.

"It reflects what we do in the community, the number of individuals that are able to have jobs and the sustainability of those individuals in the market and in the Valley over time, specifically a 30-year period," he said.

Angela Gonzales covers health, biotech and education.