Ozarka 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
- OC served 2,455 credit students and 268 non-credit students in the 2009-10 reporting year.
- Education increases lifetime income. The average income at the career midpoint of someone with an associate's degree in the Ozarka College Service Area is $25,000, 35% more than a student with a high school diploma.
- Students enjoy an attractive 28.8% average rate of return on their investment in OC.
- Throughout his or her working career, the average OC student's discounted lifetime income increases by $12.80 for every dollar invested in OC.
- Students enjoy a 28.8% rate of return on their investment in OC.

Social Perspective
- Higher earnings of OC students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Arkansas by about $14.8 million each year.
- Arkansas will see avoided social costs amounting to $637,300 per year due to OC students, including savings associated with improved health, reduced crime, and reduced welfare and unemployment.

Taxpayer Perspective
- State and local governments allocated approximately $5.4 million in support of OC in FY 2009-10.
- For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of $3.20 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 10.6% on their support for OC. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

ECONOMIC GROWTH ANALYSIS

College Operations Effect
- The Ozarka College Service Area economy annually receives roughly $6.4 million in income due to OC 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 This is a conservative figure adjusted to account for monies that leave the economy or are withdrawn from the economy in support of the college.

Productivity Effect
- The current Ozarka College Service Area economy embodies an estimated 227,500 credits that have accumulated over the past 30-year period as thousands of former OC students (completers and non-completers) enter the workforce year after year.
- OC skills translate to higher earnings for students and increased output of businesses. The added income attributable to the accumulation of OC credits in the workforce amounts to $36.4 million each year.

Total Effect
- Altogether, the average annual added income due to the activities of OC and its former students equals $42.8 million. This is approximately equal to 5.2% of the total Ozarka College Service Area economy.