KDRV Channel 12
Sept. 15, 2026

# Study says RCC adds $326M to Jackson and Josephine economies

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- Sep 15, 2026 Updated Sep 15, 2026

JACKSON AND JOSEPHINE COUNTIES, Ore. - Rogue Community College added $325.6 million to the economies of Jackson and Josephine counties, according to an economic impact study released last week by the Oregon Community College Association.

The analysis, conducted by Lightcast, an independent labor market intelligence firm based in Moscow, Idaho, found RCC's contribution equals about 1.9% of the region's total gross regional product. Oregon's 17 community colleges collectively generate $11 billion in annual economic impact and support more than 120,000 jobs across the state.

"RCC is an essential part of the economic infrastructure of Southern Oregon," RCC President Randy Weber said. "Our students graduate with the knowledge and skills employers need, and their success creates a ripple effect throughout our communities."

RCC alumni generated $272 million in added income for the regional economy during the 2023-24 analysis year through higher earnings and increased workplace

productivity, according to Lightcast. The total impact also includes $45.3 million from college operations and $8.3 million from student spending.

For every $1 students invest in their education at RCC, they can expect to receive $5.60 in higher future earnings over their working lives. The average RCC associate degree graduate from the 2023-24 cohort is expected to earn $7,800 more each year than a worker with a high school diploma or equivalent.

"These findings reinforce what we see every day — education creates opportunity, and that opportunity extends well beyond the individual student," Weber said. "When students gain the skills to move into higher-paying careers, their families benefit, local businesses benefit and our communities become stronger."

RCC's activities supported jobs across a range of sectors, including 749 jobs in healthcare and social assistance, 541 in retail trade, 439 in other services and 217 in professional and technical services. During the 2023-24 analysis year, the college employed 767 full-time and part-time faculty and staff, with 96% living in Jackson or Josephine counties.

RCC's $36.8 million payroll and $18.6 million in spending on facilities, supplies and professional services generated additional economic activity in the region. RCC generated $40.9 million in present-value benefits for state and local taxpayers through increased tax revenue and public-sector savings.

The Lightcast economic impact study is based on FY 2023-24 data and uses RCC academic and financial data, industry and employment data from federal sources, Lightcast's economic modeling and research connecting education with earnings and social outcomes. The full report, executive summary and additional information are available at RCC's website.