

The
**ECONOMIC
VALUE** *of the*
**UNIVERSITY
OF IDAHO**

Return on Investment to Society

OCT
2015



Benefits created by UI extend to far more people than just its students. As students and employers enjoy higher earnings and increased output, society as a whole benefits from an expanded economy and a range of savings associated with the students' improved quality of life.

UI RAISES PROSPERITY IN THE STATE

- Students earn more because of the skills and qualifications they acquire at UI. Further, employers earn more because the added skills of the students they hire make their businesses more productive.
- Together, increases in earnings and business output stimulate corresponding increases in earnings and employment throughout the state. Over their working lives, UI's 2013-14 student population will generate a present value of **\$2.1 billion** in added earnings in the state of Idaho.

UI IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

- As UI students achieve higher levels of education, they are statistically more likely to develop good health habits. This leads to a present value of **\$449.8 million** in savings to students and to society as a whole for medical treatment related to smoking, alcoholism, obesity, drug abuse, and mental disorders.
- Students enjoy better employment opportunities as a result of their education at UI. This makes them less likely to require earnings assistance and less likely to commit crimes. These effects translate

to a present value of **\$401,103** in unemployment-related savings and \$9.3 million in law enforcement savings to society as a whole.

- Altogether, savings to society amount to a present value of **\$459.6 million**, equal to the sum of avoided costs related to health, crime, and unemployment.

Present value of social savings (thousands)



BENEFITS TO SOCIETY OUTWEIGH SOCIAL COSTS

- In FY 2013-14, society invested **\$547.4 million** in UI educations. This includes all UI expenditures, all student expenditures, and all student opportunity costs. In return for this investment, society as a whole will receive a present value of **\$2.5 billion** in benefits, the sum of the GSP and social savings that UI's 2013-14 student population will generate in the state.
- For every dollar spent on UI educations, society as a whole in Idaho will receive a cumulative value of **\$4.60** in benefits, for as long as UI's 2013-14 students remain active in the state workforce.

