A Regional Asset
For every $1 California spends on higher education, it receives more than $3 in return. Sierra College generates an economic impact of over $164 million to the local economy as a result of operational expenditures, construction activities, and student spending. Sierra’s focus on fiscal responsibility includes a number of initiatives to give the communities it serves more for less. This includes operational efficiencies like energy savings, partnerships with local industries, transfer agreements with universities, emphasis on donor support and grant procurement, and low administrative costs.

Students served (per year): 28,000
Students transferring to a 4-year institution*: 10,000
Degree/Certificate programs: 125
*Based on Educational Goal

Community Partnerships
Public agencies, private industry, and not-for-profit organizations have formed innovative partnerships with Sierra College. Through these partnerships, the college stays in touch with the needs of the community and provides students with additional learning opportunities such as internships and on-site employee training. Our partners include governmental organizations, public safety entities, health care providers, sustainable energy and high tech companies, and local small businesses. Individual community members participate on our academic advisory boards, college committees and industry-focused roundtable discussions to keep our programs and services connected to the current needs of the region.

Increased earning potential of graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>CSU System</th>
<th>UC System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$5,891</td>
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<td>high school diploma</td>
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<td>B.A. Degree</td>
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</table>

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

If just 2% more of Californians earned associate degrees and 1% more earned a bachelor’s degree, our state’s economy would grow by $20 billion, state and local tax revenue would increase by $1.2 billion a year and 174,000 new jobs would be created.

Did you know...
80% of firefighters, EMTs and law enforcement officers are credentialed at California community colleges, in addition to 70% of nurses.
70% of California’s higher education students are enrolled in a community college.
55% of CSU baccalaureates awarded in 2007 started as community college students.
30% of UC baccalaureates awarded in 2007 started as community college students.
48% of UC bachelor’s degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics are earned by community college transfer students.
Facts about Fees
Community college fees in California are the lowest in the country. The annual cost of full-time enrollment is $1,104. The national average is $2,285.

Revenue Reductions
Revenue reductions from the state legislature are in the form of a “workload reduction” which limits the number of students we can serve. The number of Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES) we serve corresponds with our revenue stream.

Explanation of Funding
Student Fees Unlike the other systems of higher education in California, the CSU and UC systems, community colleges do not control their own fees; fees are set by the legislature. Student Fees are deposited into the State General Fund.

Enrollment
The amount budgeted for enrollment growth constitutes a “growth cap.” If community colleges receive funding for 3% growth, but enrollment increases 5%, those additional students are not funded. Sierra College consistently enrolls a large number of unfunded students in order to meet the needs of the community.

Proposition 98
In the California Master Plan for Higher Education, California community colleges are part of the K-14 system and receive funding according to Proposition 98. Proposition 98 is funded by two major sources— statewide property taxes and the state General Fund. According to Proposition 98, community colleges are to receive 10.93% of Proposition 98 funds which represents the amount community colleges were receiving when the proposition passed in 1988. The community college system has not received 10.93% of Proposition 98 funding since the passage, resulting in $4.5 billion of underfunding.

Sources: Property Taxes
- State General Fund
- Community Colleges

Sources: Sierra College Fiscal Services Department