



HBCUs Make America Strong:

THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

West Virginia State University is a valuable economic engine in its community, generating substantial economic returns year after year. The benefits flow to West Virginia State University's graduates, of course, who'll enter the workforce with sharper skills and vastly enhanced earning prospects. But, as a landmark study commissioned by UNCF—*HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities*—makes clear, the benefits also flow to the local and regional economies that are connected to West Virginia State University.

The presence of an HBCU means a boost to economic activity, on and off—and even well beyond—campus. Stronger growth. Stronger communities. More jobs. And a more talented workforce.

The study's key findings (based on 2014 data) make a persuasive case:

Total Economic Impact: \$94 Million

- West Virginia State University generates \$94 million in *total* economic impact for its local and regional economies. This estimate includes direct spending by West Virginia State University on faculty, employees, academic programs and operations—and by students attending the institution, as well as the follow-on effects of that spending.
- Every dollar spent by West Virginia State University and its students produces positive economic benefits, generating \$1.40 in initial and subsequent spending for its local and regional economies. Communities and regions hoping to foster a more robust and diversified economic climate find HBCU-connected spending a critical component of that effort.

Total Employment Impact: 876 Jobs

- West Virginia State University generates 876 jobs for its local and regional economies. Of this total, 407 are on-campus jobs, and 469 are off-campus jobs.
- For each job created on campus, another 1.2 public- and private-sector jobs are created off campus because of West Virginia State University-related spending.
- Looked at in a different way: Each \$1 million initially spent by West Virginia State University and its students creates 13 jobs.

Total Lifetime Earnings for Graduates: \$1.1 Billion

- West Virginia State University plays a major role in the economic success of its graduates by enhancing their education, training and leadership skills. A college degree opens the door to economic prosperity through greater employment and earnings potential. In fact, the 414 West Virginia State University graduates in 2014 can expect total earnings of \$1.1 billion over their lifetimes—that's 72 percent more than they could expect to earn without their college credentials.
- Or viewed on an individual basis, a West Virginia State University graduate working full time throughout his or her working life can expect to earn \$1.1 million in *additional* income due to a college credential.¹

¹This estimate reflects incremental earnings averaged across degree and certificate programs.

