



# SOCIETY'S INVESTMENT

The Economic Value of Vancouver Island University | February 2018

Benefits created by Vancouver Island University (VIU) 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.

## VIU RAISES PROSPERITY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Students earn more because of the skills and qualifications they acquire at VIU. 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 province. Over their working lives, VIU's FY 2016-17 student population will increase the province's economic base by **\$1.4 billion**.

## VIU IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

- As VIU students achieve higher levels of education, they are statistically more likely to develop good health habits. This leads to a present value of **\$21.1 million** in savings to students and to society as a whole for medical treatments related to smoking, alcoholism, obesity, drug abuse, and mental disorders.
- Students enjoy better employment opportunities as a result of their education at VIU. This makes them less likely to require income assistance and less likely to commit crimes. These effects translate to a present value of **\$626.7 thousand** in crime-related savings and **\$1.3 million** in unemployment-related savings to society as a whole.
- Altogether, savings to society amount to a present value

of **\$23.1 million**, equal to the sum of avoided costs related to health, crime, and unemployment.

## BENEFITS TO SOCIETY OUTWEIGH SOCIAL COSTS

- In FY 2016-17, society invested **\$248.8 million** in VIU educations. This includes all VIU expenditures, all student expenditures, and all student opportunity costs. In return for this investment, society as a whole will receive a present value of **\$1.4 billion** in benefits, the sum of the increased economic base and social savings that VIU's FY 2016-17 student population will generate in the province.
- For every dollar spent on VIU educations, society as a whole in British Columbia will receive a cumulative value of **\$5.70** in benefits, for as long as VIU's FY 2016-17 students remain active in the provincial workforce.

### PRESENT VALUE OF SOCIAL SAVINGS

