Education has the power to raise students’ earning potential and increase their employability. In return for their investment in education, Virginia Western’s 2012-13 students will receive higher wages that will continue to grow throughout their working lives.

EDUCATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE’S LIVES

- Virginia Western provides an environment for students to learn the skills they need to gain and maintain productive employment.

- The training and credentials that students acquire at the college increase their earning potential and help put them on the path to fulfilling and prosperous careers.¹

EDUCATION RETURNS VALUE FOR MONEY SPENT

- To meet the costs of going to college, students rely on their own earnings or on the earnings of their families. At Virginia Western, students paid a total of $25.3 MILLION in FY 2012-13 to cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and supplies.

- While at college, students spend time focusing on their studies, time they would have otherwise spent in employment or with their families and friends. For Virginia Western students, the value of time and earnings forgone was estimated to be $65 MILLION (less offsetting monies received from residual aid).

¹ This analysis excludes the additional economic impact of dual enrollment courses taught in local high schools.
• In return for the costs of going to college, students will receive a stream of higher lifetime income. These income gains will fully recover the money that students invested and will continue to grow throughout the students’ working lives.

EDUCATION INCREASES PEOPLE’S EARNING POTENTIAL

• Average annual incomes increase as students attain higher levels of education. On average, associate’s degree completers in the Roanoke Valley will earn $34,600 at the midpoint of their careers, $9,100 more than someone with a high school diploma.

• Associate’s degree completers will earn $1,314,800 (undiscounted) over their working lifetime, an increase of $345,800 compared to someone with a high school diploma.

EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES CAN MAKE

• Virginia Western’s 2012-13 students will receive an average annual rate of return of 12.6% on their investment in the college. This rate of return continues throughout their working lives.

• Had students and their families taken the money they spent on education and invested it instead in a standard bank savings account, they would have received a rate of return of less than 1%.

• On average, Virginia Western’s 2012-13 students will receive a cumulative $2.70 in higher future income for every $1 they invested in their education.