Central Lakes College (CLC) begins making an impact early, meeting each student at different points along their educational journey and helping them toward their chosen pathway. A robust concurrent enrollment program, well-tailored technical programs, and an associate of arts degree enables a student to start at CLC, saving time and money. Students who have earned the associate’s degree may then elect to transfer to any Minnesota State four-year college or university.

The range of options for students at CLC is unique to the region and includes more than 70 program selections that will jumpstart career opportunities after graduation. Home to the North Central Regional Small Business Development Center, CLC is the center of economic development helping young businesses thrive, while it remains at the cutting edge of farm research through its Ag and Energy Center. Research on irrigation and other farm operations are becoming a catalyst for agriculture research and demonstration in the coarse, sandy plains of central Minnesota.

### Contributing to the Minnesota Economy

- The combined economic contribution of CLC in FY 17 was **$135.8 million**. This includes a direct impact of $68.2 million and indirect/induced impact of $67.6 million.
- Operational and capital spending in the State of Minnesota generated $74.7 million of the total impact and $61.1 million in impact from student and visitor spending.

### Supporting and Sustaining Jobs in the State

- CLC directly employs 265 people.
- CLC supports more than 1,107 Minnesota jobs (657 direct and 450 indirect/induced).
There are an estimated 22,400 CLC alumni living and working in Minnesota. Assuming that a career lasts for 40 years, CLC alumni currently living in the state will have contributed nearly $4.5 billion in impact over the span of their careers.

With 75 percent of CLC students requiring financial assistance to attend college, the Central Lakes College Foundation, fueled by business, individual, and alumni donors, is enhancing the educational life of its students. The Foundation provides $350,000 in scholarships each year. In the 2018 spring semester, 368 scholarships were awarded, opening the doors of opportunity and economic prosperity for all its citizens and local communities.

CLC faculty, staff, and students generated an estimated $1.5 million in charitable donations and volunteer services.

- $338,327 donated to local charitable organizations by CLC staff, faculty, and students.
- $1.2 million of volunteer time by CLC faculty, staff, and students.

“Providing the region with a highly skilled workforce to meet the unique needs of central Minnesota is a top priority for Central Lakes College.”

- Hara Charlier
  President of Central Lakes College

Making a Difference in the Community and State

CLC plays an essential role in growing Minnesota’s economy through talent development. Its impact begins early, as one of Minnesota’s leading concurrent enrollment programs. The college works with 32 high schools, offering 60 classes, which create enormous cost-savings for the nearly 1,700 students taking advantage of this valuable educational opportunity. Some students in the region graduate high school having already earned an associate degree.

The academic and athletic programs at CLC are committed to giving back to the community through creative community events. CLC Raider athletic teams routinely volunteer for worthy efforts such as Habitat for Humanity and Camp Confidence. The welding program is partnered with the city to bring a Paul Bunyan and Babe themed bike rack to downtown Brainerd. The heavy equipment students partnered with the city of Staples to help build the bike trail and also volunteer at Day of Dozers, which raises money for Children’s Hospitals of Minnesota. And the natural resources program partnered with area state parks and Camp Ripley to offer students hands-on training, while helping the environment.