Southwest Minnesota State University is a four-year public university making an impact locally and beyond Minnesota, with out-of-state students making up one-quarter of its enrollment. Located less than an hour from the South Dakota and Iowa borders, it offers in-state tuition to all students regardless of residency.

Southwest Minnesota State University is the only state university that offers four-year agricultural programs and has developed a nationally-recognized Culinology degree, a melding of food science, culinary arts, and hospitality that is trademarked by the Research Chefs Association. Southwest Minnesota State University is where the heart of agriculture and food meet in Minnesota.

Southwest Minnesota State University facilitates ongoing conversations with local workforce professionals to ensure students find employment when they graduate and to keep students engaged as part-time employees while still in school. Local employers, like Schwan’s Company, create short-shifts in their production schedules to accommodate students who are enrolled at the university. Others, like U.S. Bank, Ralco Nutrition and Marshall Community Services, offer internships and part-time employment. Students’ applied research and projects are many times tied to local business and industry needs. These types of partnerships and collaborations advance students into full-time jobs, and contribute to local industry.

**Contributing to the Minnesota Economy**

- Southwest Minnesota State University has a combined economic contribution of **$173.1 million**. This includes a direct impact of $86.3 million and an indirect/induced impact of $86.8 million.
- Operational and capital spending in the State of Minnesota generates $103.0 million of the total impact and $70.1 million from student and visitor spending.

**Supporting and Sustaining Jobs in the State**

- Southwest Minnesota State University directly employs 417 people.
- Overall, Southwest Minnesota State University supports more than 1,421 Minnesota jobs (844 direct and 547 indirect/induced).
Students and Alumni in the State Generate Additional Impact

In academic year 2016–2017, Southwest Minnesota State University awarded a total of 649 certificates and degrees. Southwest Minnesota State University alumni living and working in Minnesota total 14,531. The impact of Southwest Minnesota State University alumni earnings above a high school degree (associates, bachelors, and master’s) over the span of 40 years totals $8.9 billion.

With the Redwood River running through the town of Marshall, Southwest Minnesota State University leads the community in water quality monitoring. Current and former Southwest Minnesota State University students mentor high school students, who in turn teach local middle school students, exposing students to opportunities in the STEM fields and making lasting contributions to the local community. This is an ongoing research project that has benefits for Southwest Minnesota State University students, high school and junior high students, and the state.

Making a Difference in the Community and State

The concurrent enrollment program at Southwest Minnesota State University is the first, and largest, in Minnesota, with 5,000 students enrolled. The nationally-accredited program aligns the university’s faculty with local high school teachers to teach college-level courses in the high school. Students graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college, some having already earned a two-year degree.

The Southwest Minnesota State University concurrent enrollment program is also addressing the teacher shortage in Minnesota, and specifically, in attracting teachers of color to the profession. The goal is to expose students to a career in education through classes and shadowing opportunities. In this program, which is in 20 high schools, Southwest Minnesota State University is striving to enhance a diverse statewide workforce.

Southwest Minnesota State University is also contributing to the local fabric of the community through educational and community events like Ag Bowl, and the corresponding Ag Bowl Scholarship Challenge. The university hosts high school students in a growing FFA competition, where teams and individuals compete for both cash and scholarship prizes. Over 700 FFA members from across the state competed last academic year. The event is an educational experience for students, and underscores the university’s commitment to agriculture in a geographic area whose economy is driven by agriculture, and ag-related industries.

An estimated $2.4 million in charitable donations and volunteer activities are generated annually by Southwest Minnesota State University faculty, staff, and students.

- $469,715 donated to local charitable organizations by Southwest Minnesota State University staff, faculty, and students.

- Over $1.9 million of volunteer time by Southwest Minnesota State University faculty, staff, and students.

“These numbers demonstrate the impact of Southwest Minnesota State University and our role as an anchor institution. This report illustrates the economic vitality and enriched quality of life that the University brings to Marshall and the broader region.”

- President, Connie J. Gores