

Ridgewater College

Creating Opportunities, Changing Lives

The impact of Ridgewater College is evident by its tremendous presence in the towns of Willmar and Hutchinson, Minnesota, where its faculty, students, and alumni are engaged in the community and laser focused on workforce development. A robust student life, featuring seven varsity teams, and dozens of community events, builds a collegiate spirit that is threaded throughout its blended course offerings that focus on turning short term training programs into livable wage careers.

Ridgewater College prioritizes the goals of its students so that they can qualify for a great career in a field that they love, and its faculty and staff focus on preparing students for a job in the region. Its individualized approach is centered around career assessments to help non-traditional students discover their strengths and, through the use of invasive counseling, help them navigate through financial aid, the admissions process, and achieve collegiate success. Programs like non-destructive testing—one of only three programs in the nation, agriculture programs such as dairy and GPS/GIS technology certificates, healthcare programs, and liberal arts degrees offer local students unique career and educational opportunities. Ridgewater College offers more than 100 educational programs in transfer education, transfer options, and technical education to help students achieve their long-term educational goals, living up to its motto: *Creating Opportunities, Changing Lives*.

Contributing to the Minnesota Economy

- Ridgewater College has a combined economic contribution of **\$170.2 million**. This includes a direct impact of \$85.8 million and indirect/induced impact of \$84.4 million.
- Operational and capital spending in the State of Minnesota generates \$86.0 million of the total impact and \$84.2 million from student and visitor spending.

Ridgewater College generates
\$170.2M
in economic impact per year



\$9.8M in state and local revenue



\$915,068
in community contributions

840
graduates annually

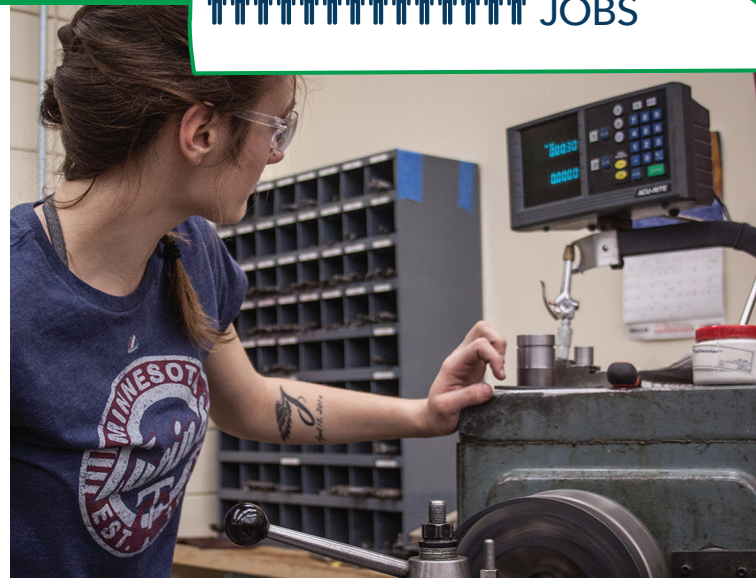


Supports and sustains **1,456**
JOBS



Supporting and Sustaining Jobs in the State

- Ridgewater College directly employs 356 people in Minnesota.
- Overall, Ridgewater College supports more than 1,456 Minnesota jobs (894 direct and 562 indirect/induced).



MINNESOTA STATE



RIDGEWATER
COLLEGE

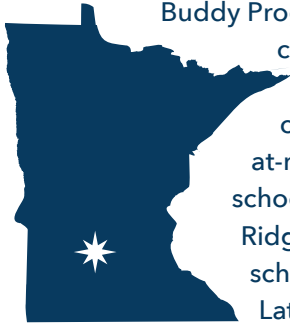
WILLMAR & HUTCHINSON

Students and Alumni in the State Generate Additional Impact

In academic year 2016-2017, Ridgewater College awarded 840 associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Based upon the (conservative) assumption that each graduate will earn an additional \$6,250 annually over a high school degree, and the average span of a career is 40 years, Ridgewater College alumni living and working in Minnesota, which total 29,305, will have contributed nearly \$5.9 billion in impact over the span of their careers.

Making a Difference in the Community and State

At Ridgewater College, students who do not know the language of higher education are navigated toward success through a strong focus on minority, low-income, and at-risk student programs. The Ridgewater Lunch



Buddy Program shows a genuine commitment to community by matching underrepresented college students with low-income, at-risk students in the elementary schools. Programs like Discover Ridgewater Days, welcome high school students on campus where Latino service providers help open

the doors to the college for those who may not enroll through a traditional method.

In very real ways, Ridgewater College is intertwined in the communities it serves. As one of the community's largest employers, Ridgewater faculty and staff reach students, alumni, and neighbors through civic and volunteer work.



Based upon analysis, Ridgewater faculty, staff, and students generated an estimated **\$915,068** in charitable donations and volunteer services.

- \$279,096 donated to local charitable organizations by Ridgewater College staff, faculty, and students.
- \$635,972 of volunteer time by Ridgewater College faculty, staff, and students.

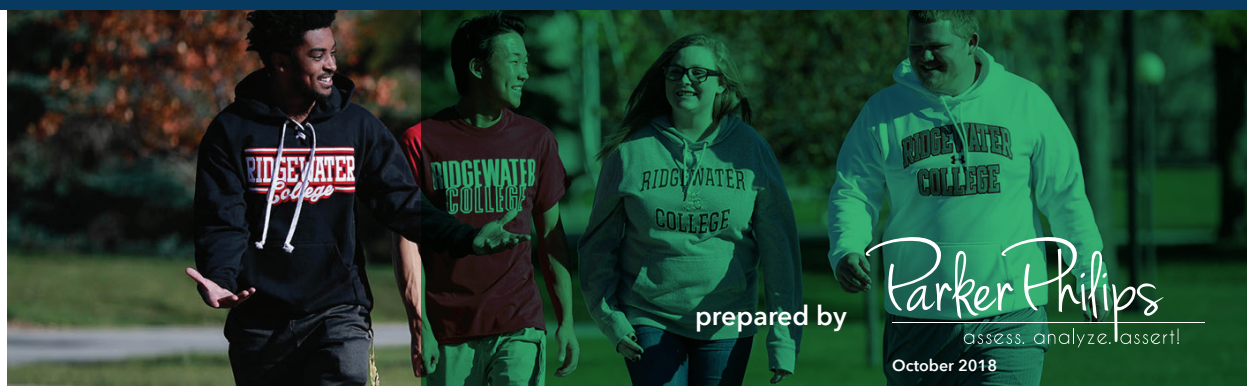
"Ridgewater College helps every individual achieve their full potential, which in turn helps our communities grow and prosper."

- Dr. Craig Johnson
Ridgewater College



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A member of Minnesota State



prepared by

Parker Philips

assess. analyze. assert!

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