

# The Economic Value of Mississippi University for Women to the Golden Triangle Region (plus Monroe and Noxubee)



THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE  
(PLUS MONROE AND NOXUBEE  
COUNTIES), MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi University for Women (MUW) creates a significant positive impact on the business community and generates a return on investment to its major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. Using a two-pronged approach that involves an economic impact analysis and an investment analysis, this study calculates the benefits received by each of these groups. Results of the analysis reflect fiscal year (FY) 2021-22.

## Economic impact analysis

In FY 2021-22, MUW added **\$97.9 million** in income to the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee)<sup>1</sup> economy, a value approximately equal to **1.5%** of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, MUW's impact supported **1,567 jobs**. For perspective, the activities of MUW and its students support **one out of every 56 jobs** in the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee).

### Operations spending impact

- MUW employed 417 full-time and part-time faculty and staff. Payroll amounted to \$28.2 million, much of which was spent in the region for groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. The university spent

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this analysis, the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee) is comprised of the following counties in Mississippi: Clay, Lowndes, Monroe, Noxubee, and Oktibbeha.

another \$22.7 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.

- The net impact of the university's operations spending added **\$34.3 million** in income to the regional economy in FY 2021-22.

### Construction spending impact

- MUW invests in construction each year to maintain its facilities, create additional capacities, and meet its growing educational demands, generating a short-term infusion of spending and jobs in the regional economy.
- The net impact of MUW's construction spending in FY 2021-22 was **\$3.1 million** in added income for the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee).

### Visitor spending impact

- Out-of-region visitors attracted to the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee) for activities at MUW brought new dollars to the economy through their spending at hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and other regional businesses.
- Visitor spending added approximately **\$1.1 million** in income to the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee) economy.

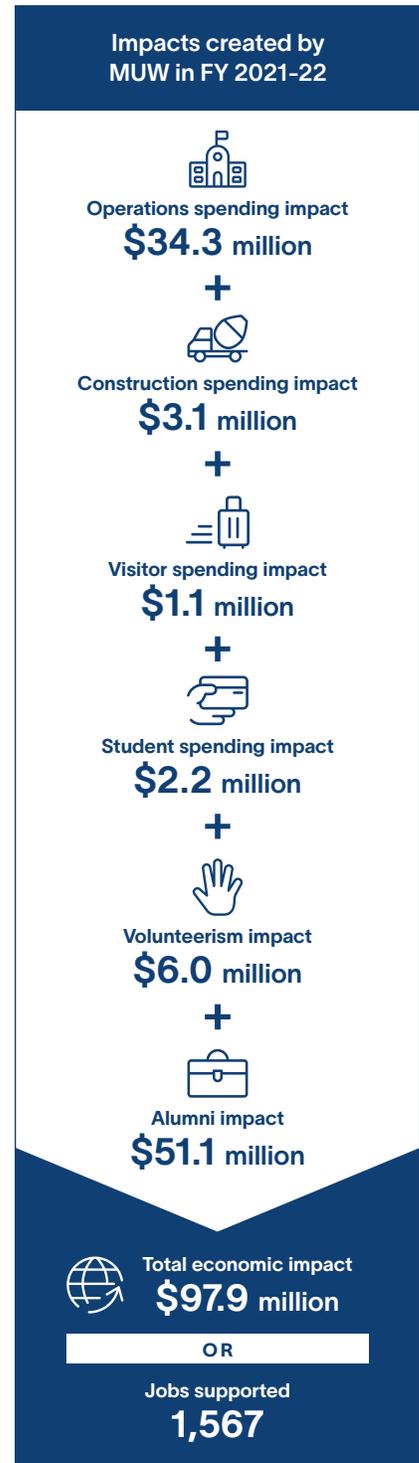
### Student spending impact

- Around 67% of credit students attending MUW originated from outside the region. Some of these students relocated to the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee). In addition, some in-region students, referred to as retained students, would have left the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee) for other educational opportunities if not for MUW. These relocated and retained students spent money on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, and other living expenses at regional businesses.
- The expenditures of relocated and retained students in FY 2021-22 added **\$2.2 million** in income to the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee) economy.

### Volunteerism impact

- The work of MUW's student volunteers allow businesses and organizations to grow, increasing their output and impacting the economy at large. Using the value per volunteer hour for Mississippi,<sup>2</sup> the work of MUW student volunteers is equivalent to \$4.2 million in earnings.
- In terms of actual impact to the regional economy, MUW student volunteers generated an impact of **\$6.0 million** in added income in FY 2021-22.

<sup>2</sup> By state value per volunteer hour was provided by Independent Sector (see [https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt\\_details/](https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt_details/)).



## Alumni impact

- Over the years, students have studied at MUW and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly-acquired knowledge and skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in the Golden Triangle (plus Monroe and Noxubee).
- The net impact of MUW's former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to **\$51.1 million** in added income in FY 2021-22.

## Investment analysis

### Student perspective

- MUW's FY 2021-22 students paid a present value of **\$15.1 million** to cover the cost of tuition, fees, supplies, and interest on student loans. They also forwent **\$7.3 million** in money that they would have earned had they been working instead of attending college.
- In return for their investment, students will receive a cumulative present value of **\$186.7 million** in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of **\$8.30** in higher future earnings for every dollar students invest in their education. Students' average annual rate of return is **29.2%**.

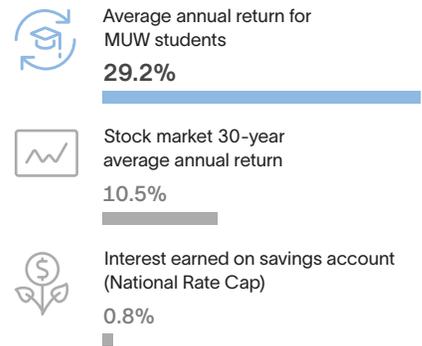
### Taxpayer perspective

- Taxpayers provided MUW with **\$31.6 million** of funding in FY 2021-22. In return, they will benefit from added tax revenue, stemming from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased business output, amounting to **\$47.8 million**. A reduced demand for government-funded services in Mississippi will add another **\$11.8 million** in benefits to taxpayers.
- For every dollar of public money invested in MUW, taxpayers will receive **\$1.90** in return, over the course of students' working lives. The average annual rate of return for taxpayers is **3.2%**.

### Social perspective

- In FY 2021-22, Mississippi invested **\$74.5 million** to support MUW. In turn, the Mississippi economy will grow by **\$450.1 million**, over the course of students' working lives. Society will also benefit from **\$40.1 million** of public and private sector savings.
- For every dollar invested in MUW in FY 2021-22, people in Mississippi will receive **\$6.60** in return, for as long as MUW's FY 2021-22 students remain active in the state workforce.

### Students see a high rate of return for their investment in MUW



Source: Forbes' S&P 500, 1992-2021. FDIC.gov, 2-2022.

