



*Tuesday, August 12, 2025*

## **Pennsylvania's independent colleges contribute \$29B to economy**

*Lehigh Valley Business*  
August 11, 2025

The Association of Independent Nonprofit Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania has released a new report revealing the scale and impact of the state's more than 80 independent nonprofit schools. The report, which was analyzed and prepared independently by the Parker Strategy Group, shows that the AICUP member schools contributed to employment. It found that 200,000 jobs were created and sustained by AICUP schools and created a \$29 billion annual economic impact – a figure that rises to \$65 billion when including schools with affiliated hospitals. The AICUP said that 11 of the 80 colleges included in the report are in the Capital/Central region, and together, just these 11 AICUP schools add \$2.07 billion to the economy, support 17,286 jobs, and generate \$115.9 million in local and state taxes. The report also showed a 158 to 1 Return on Investment of state dollars by AICUP schools. It noted that nine of the 15 Small Business Development Centers in Pennsylvania are located on an AICUP member campus, sparking local innovation and empowering entrepreneurs to launch job-generating startups. AICUP schools together educate 53 percent of all students in Pennsylvania seeking a four-year degree and educate 279,000 students total every year.

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