Winona State University

That perfect balance between the personal attention normally attributed to a small institution and the cultural, academic, and administrative advantages that are associated with a large institution generate an impact unique to Winona State University. The impact can be felt across campuses, regional high schools, and in its role in the communities it serves. The approximately 8,000 students from 35 states and 50 countries enrolled at Winona State University add to the diversity, culture, and economy of the town of Winona, Minnesota.

What began as a teaching college and now serves with distinction as the first campus of Minnesota State, Winona State University was named the second-best public institution in Minnesota by U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges,” and listed among the “Best in the Midwest” by The Princeton Review for fifteen years in a row. Its 80 academic programs offered across five colleges, 14 NCAA Division II and one NCAA III varsity sports teams, extend its reach beyond Minnesota.

The 2016 Minnesota State allocation model showed that Winona State University had the highest success rate in the system for students of color—86.9 percent and growing. Students at Winona State University had the highest success rate of all 37 colleges and universities. The measures of success continue even after students graduate. More than 92 percent of graduates are employed or furthering their studies in areas related to their major within one year of graduation, which is high by national standards.

Student success extends beyond rates and rankings at Winona State University, with nearly three-quarters of the student body actively volunteering in the community. Over the past decade, more than one million student service hours have made a difference beyond the beautiful island city along the banks of the Mississippi River.

Contributing to the Minnesota Economy

- Winona State University has a combined economic contribution of $447.9 million. This includes a direct impact of $228.3 million and an indirect/induced impact of $219.6 million.
- Operational and capital spending in the State of Minnesota generates $270.8 million of the total impact and $177.1 million from student and visitor spending.

Supporting and Sustaining Jobs in the State

- Winona State University employs 1,035 people.
- Overall, Winona State University supports more than 3,465 Minnesota jobs (2,009 direct and 1,456 indirect/induced).
Students and Alumni in the State Generate Additional Impact

In academic year 2016–2017, Winona State University awarded a total of 1,921 degrees. Based upon the (conservative) assumption that each degree (bachelor’s, master’s, doctorate) recipient will earn an additional income over those with a high school degree, the impact of the 42,076 Winona State University alumni living and working in Minnesota over the span of a 40-year career is $27.4 billion.

Winona State University prepares graduates to serve generously, lead responsibly, and respond imaginatively and creatively to the challenges of their work, their lives, and their communities. Its alumni network is evidence that vision is becoming a reality, impacting the cultural fabric of the region. From Homecoming and game day celebrations to distinguished faculty and guest lectures and local fundraisers, there is always something to do on campus. In addition, the Winona State University Alumni Relations team plans more than 90 events and alumni reunions nationwide every year.

Making a Difference in the Community and State

Winona State University is well known for its nursing program and its education program, which is transforming the field of teacher preparation. Winona State University Career Services maintains close ties to area businesses and provides them access to an exceptional pool of more than 8,000 students enrolled in 82 study areas. The commitment of WSU to building and supporting a sustainable society will be felt for generations to come.

An estimated $9.3 million in charitable donations and volunteer activities are generated annually by Winona State University faculty, staff, and students with volunteer efforts adding up to a combined total hours of 363,000.

- $717,962 donated to local charitable organizations by Winona State University staff, faculty, and students.
- Over $8.5 million of volunteer time by Winona State University faculty, staff, and students. Students volunteered for 240,000 hours and staff and faculty 123,000 hours.

“The mission of Winona State University is to enhance the intellectual, social, cultural, and economic vitality of the people and communities we serve. This mission statement is the driving force behind our culture. It’s gratifying to see in this report that our community of learners is improving our world to such a great extent.”

- Dr. Scott R. Olson, President, Winona State University

A member of Minnesota State

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