By providing an inclusive and student-centered learning environment, Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) prepares its students to solve complex challenges and become engaged citizens in their local and global communities. SMSU’s comprehensive degree programs, rooted in the liberal arts, connect academic and professional development with the wider world, producing leaders who excel in their fields.

**Contributing to the Minnesota Economy**

- Southwest Minnesota State University generates an annual impact of **$286.5 million**. This includes a direct impact of $163.7 million and an indirect/induced impact of $122.8 million.
- Spending on operations and capital projects generates $98.4 million of the total impact, and student and visitor spending generates $188.1 million.

**Supporting and Sustaining Jobs in the State**

- Southwest Minnesota State University supports and sustains **2,248 Minnesota jobs** (1,614 direct and 634 indirect/induced). These jobs are at the college and in the community – 413 direct jobs are employees of SMSU.

**Generating Local and State Tax Revenue**

- The combined tax impact of Southwest Minnesota State University, its suppliers, students and visitors is **$23.4 million**. This includes a direct impact of $15.9 million and indirect/induced impact of $7.5 million.
Alumni in the State Generate Additional Impact

An estimated 19,080 Southwest Minnesota State University alumni living and working in Minnesota are continuing to make a positive economic impact after graduation. These graduates are an integral part of the Minnesota workforce, impacting the economy not only through their spending but also through the extra earning power generated by their Southwest Minnesota State University degree.

Each year, Southwest Minnesota State University alumni generate $424.5 million in economic impact for Minnesota and support and sustain 2,309 jobs. Over their 40-year career, Southwest Minnesota State University alumni will generate $17 billion in the economy. These impacts are based on the added value of earning a degree from Southwest Minnesota State University, not alumni full wages. This impact is based upon the total number of alumni in Minnesota 10 years after graduation.

Making a Difference in the Community and State

The concurrent enrollment program at Southwest Minnesota State University is the first, and longest running in Minnesota, with almost 4,500 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.