



June 30, 2011

Barton Graduates Receive 16 Percent Return on Education Investment

What if you could realize an average return of nearly 16 percent on a low-risk investment? And what if that investment most certainly guaranteed that you continued to benefit from it for a lifetime? If you are a Barton Community College graduate, then you have made that investment and it is likely that you are reaping those benefits already.

In the third-party evaluation, conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., to measure Barton's worth, it calculated that students receive a 15.8 percent rate of return on their educational investment at Barton. Furthermore, over the course of a working career, the average Barton student's lifetime earning will increase \$4.70 for every dollar invested in his Barton education. That figure takes into account tuition, fees and forgone earnings that could have been earned during those student years.

The EMSI study reports that the typical associate degree graduate in Barton's seven-county service area earns 35 percent more than someone with a high school diploma at the midpoint of his career. If that student advanced to earn a baccalaureate degree, as many Barton graduates do, then he earns 94 percent more than someone with a high school diploma at the midpoint of his career. That transfer student has the added advantage of achieving his goal for far less money than his native university counterpart.

This being the fifth and final letter that I am writing to the public regarding the EMSI study, it is not by accident that I chose the student perspective as my final call to the community. I had the privilege to work at Barton for 29 years. I came to the College in its second year of existence, when there were obvious daily reminders of its infancy as a learning institution and buildings were still being constructed all around us. As a long-time employee, working in all facets of higher education, I've witnessed the impact Barton has on its students. I also realize first-hand the impact so many of those students have made to our community.

Validation from a third-party evaluation confirms what College employees have known for decades in our hearts. Barton is a solid investment for

students. Still, as I referenced in my initial letter about the report, it's important to objectively measure those results over time.

If you have not done so already – as if we have not prodded you enough ;) – the Board encourages you to view the EMSI study and its breakout reports at economicstudy.bartonccc.edu. If you have questions, or wish to receive any portion of the reports in the mail, please call the President's Office at 620-792-9302.

As I end this letter, I do so in the closing hours of my service as a College Trustee. I thank you for the opportunity to serve the College for six years as a Board member. While it's been an honor to serve in that capacity, I look forward to returning to my role as strictly a community supporter of the College. I'm confident that you will join me in that continued, collective endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Maneth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Paul E. Maneth, Ph.D.
Outgoing Chairman
Board of Trustees