

WWAMI Economic Impact 2008 Report Summary

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During 2008, Idaho WWAMI commissioned a study of the economic impact of its programs by faculty at the College of Business and Economics at the University of Idaho. The full twenty-eight page Report of the WWAMI Economic Impact Study and a more detailed Executive Summary can be obtained by contacting the WWAMI Medical Education Program at the University of Idaho, PO Box 444207, Moscow, ID, 83844-4207 (office: 208-885-2828). A summary of the that report is presented here.

The Report begins with an overview of the WWAMI program in Idaho and describes its various sources of data used in the report:

- **Students and Residents:** The WWAMI Medical Education Program provides medical school access and physician education for the states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WWAMI) through a cooperative program with the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM). In 2008, there were 76 Idaho medical students in the WWAMI program, with 20 of those completing their first year of medicine at the University of Idaho, in Moscow, and 23 advanced medical students completing training in Idaho. In addition, through affiliation with the WWAMI program, 70 doctors-in-training (resident physicians) are also completing their advanced specialty training in Idaho.
- **Physicians and Staff:** WWAMI has contributed 516 doctors to Idaho or approximately 13% of Idaho's physicians; including 217 Idaho WWAMI graduates, 87 medical graduates from other WWAMI states, and 212 practicing Idaho doctors from WWAMI-affiliated graduate medical education training programs (residencies). WWAMI doctors average 3 support staff and personnel per doctor or 1,548 additional jobs attributed to WWAMI doctors.
- **Research:** The WWAMI program generates a substantial annual flow of research dollars to the University of Idaho (UI) Moscow campus and to research partnerships statewide.

The Report further reviews the generated revenues and expenditures of the WWAMI program in Idaho:

- **Program Expenditures:** WWAMI had a 2007 annual operating budget of approximately \$3.5 million of which approximately 50% is spent on program support in Idaho. Idaho's portion includes \$942,892 of program expenditures at the University of Idaho (Moscow campus) and \$421,160 for the office/program in Boise.

- Research: UI WWAMI faculty generated \$5 Million in FY07 federal research dollars, creating substantial local economic impacts. Of that, \$2 Million was used to stimulate research partnerships throughout the state, including Idaho's colleges and universities.
- Participant Expenditures: First year WWAMI students spend an average of \$19,107 per year in Moscow (excluding tuition and fees) for living expenses (or a total of \$382,140 for all students annually); third and fourth year students spend an average of \$21,018 per year in locations throughout Idaho for living expenses (or total of \$483,407 annually); WWAMI-affiliated doctors-in-training (residents) spent an average of \$45,000 per year in locations throughout Idaho for living expenses (or a total of \$3,150,000 annually for all residents).

Finally, the Report identifies the principal economic contributions of the WWAMI program to Idaho's economy:

- Total Annual State and Local Economic Impacts from WWAMI Education and Research Programs: \$17.78 million in sales; \$8.74 million wage and salary earnings; 195 jobs; and \$504,079 in taxes (indirect business taxes which are mostly property and sales taxes). These include the direct, indirect, and induced impacts (i.e. multiplier effects) and represent new dollars to their respective economies. Or put differently, the economies would shrink by the magnitude of the impacts in the absence of the WWAMI program.
- Total Annual Jobs, Sales, Earnings, and Taxes Created by WWAMI Practicing Physicians and their Staff in Idaho: \$275.45 million in sales; \$156.79 million wage and salary earnings; 2,064 jobs; and \$2.09 million in property and sales taxes.**
- Program Return on Investment: Compared to the national average for \$2.30 for state medical schools, Idaho WWAMI generates over \$5 of economic contributions for every State dollar of funding received.***

As can be seen from this summary, the WWAMI program in Idaho contributes substantially to Idaho's economy, through jobs, earnings and wages, expenditures, and taxes, all through its education, training, and placement of Idaho physicians.

*The author is solely responsible for the findings of this study and they do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Idaho or any other individuals or organizations.

** These represent actual direct contributions and do not include a multiplier effect.

*** Calculation based on data from the Association of American Medical Colleges.