Provost Report,
December Faculty Senate Meeting

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Background on ROI Study

- NC General Assembly directed Board of Governors to conduct study.
- Board contracted with Deloitte Consulting’s higher ed practice.
- Study estimates financial ROI of 724 undergraduate programs and 575 graduate program across UNC System.
- Compares expected lifetime earnings of degree holders vs. non-degree holders.
Key Findings

- UNC System degrees pay off in future earnings for students across programs – from engineering and education to health sciences and the humanities.

- For **undergraduate** degree holders:
  - $1.2M median lifetime earnings exceeds non-grads by $572K.
  - Median overall ROI is $500K.

- For **graduate** degree holders:
  - $2.1M median lifetime earnings exceeds non-grads by $1M.
  - Median overall ROI is $938K.
● 94% of undergraduate degree programs have a positive ROI for graduates.

● 91% of graduate degree programs have a positive ROI for graduates.

● Nearly 90% of low-income students experience upward economic mobility.

● In addition, the average student breaks even on their educational investment in under 10 years.
There is growing skepticism nationwide about value and relevance of higher education – especially prevalent among young adults of college-going age.

Results of ROI study affirm long-term value of college degree – particularly one from a UNC public university.
Next Steps

- Study provides universities with opportunity to review academic program portfolios and identify opportunities to improve student outcomes.
- UNC System president will issue guidance regarding low-ROI programs warranting thorough review and development of action plan.
- Based on this guidance, App State will assemble team to review ROI study and develop/report our plan of action.
- Board of Governors will report overall action plan to NC General Assembly in the spring.