These impacts are driven by operational expenditures, capital expenditures, student spending and visitor spending. Private, nonprofit colleges and universities throughout this region are important economic and employment drivers in the communities that they serve.
In a tradition more than 15 years in the making, Mount Marty University once again came together for the Thanksgiving Basket Project. In 2019, the project provided 27 families with food for their Thanksgiving feast. Campus departments, student groups and individuals volunteer to sponsor a basket for a family, and then fill it with enough food to create a Thanksgiving meal. The families ranged in size from 3 to 17. After assembly, the baskets are blessed in a ceremony at Mount Marty and delivered to the families.

“Private colleges are fully committed to a focus on teaching and learning, nurturing the talents and aspirations of every student and being an affordable, compelling investment.”

MICHAEL LOVETT, PH.D.
RETIRED, SUPERINTENDENT WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN

Rural, suburban and urban communities throughout the country benefit from the volunteer and philanthropic spirit embodied at many private, nonprofit colleges and universities. There is a spirit of giving back that is rooted in the founding mission of these colleges and universities. In 2018–2019, the combined impact of charitable giving and volunteerism in Region VII totaled $228.4 million. The examples presented below illustrate a small sampling of the innumerable ways that these institutions give back.

MOUNT MARTY UNIVERSITY (YANKTON, SD)

In a tradition more than 15 years in the making, Mount Marty University once again came together for the Thanksgiving Basket Project. In 2019, the project provided 27 families with food for their Thanksgiving feast. Campus departments, student groups and individuals volunteer to sponsor a basket for a family, and then fill it with enough food to create a Thanksgiving meal. The families ranged in size from 3 to 17. After assembly, the baskets are blessed in a ceremony at Mount Marty and delivered to the families.

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (LINCOLN, NE)

Each year Nebraska Wesleyan University holds its annual “Lend-A-Hand to Lincoln” day in the fall. This day of service gives new students an opportunity to get acquainted with the Lincoln community through service to one of over 20 nonprofit organizations.

MACALESTER COLLEGE (ST. PAUL, MN)

Project Pericles® at Macalester began in 2003 through a generous grant from Eugene Lang, the founder of Project Pericles®, and trustee emeritus Don Garretson and Adele Garretson. Project Pericles at Macalester is a multifaceted effort to renew civic commitments and make structural and cultural changes in order to cultivate in students the skills and motivation for a life of civic engagement. The project offers an opportunity to infuse social responsibility into all areas of the college and to serve as a building block for a long-term comprehensive approach to education that develops informed and active citizens and strengthens communities.

NATIONAL PROFILE AND IMPACT OF PRIVATE, NONPROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

There are more than 1,700 private, nonprofit colleges and universities in the U.S., enrolling over 5 million students. Eighty-four percent of students who received a bachelor’s degree from a four-year private, nonprofit college were able to complete it in four years. The percentage of Pell Grant students enrolled in private, nonprofit colleges (38%) is virtually identical to public colleges (40%). Private, nonprofit colleges and universities in the U.S. generate $591.5 billion in economic impact, support and sustain 3.4 million jobs and generate $77.6 billion in local, state and federal taxes.

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