The University’s Economic Impact

As Rochester’s largest employer, the University has a well-known major economic impact on the immediate community. But a new report by the Center for Governmental Research shows that Rochester is also the largest private employer in upstate New York and the sixth largest in the state overall, with an economic influence that reaches far beyond the region.

Employment

The largest impact is generated by the direct employment of more than 24,000 full-time equivalent workers at the University. Subsequent spending by these employees causes a “spillover” effect that creates more than 23,000 additional jobs in New York.

2015 Total Employment Impact in New York State

The CGR report differentiates between the traded sector, which brings dollars into a region, and the local sector, which reallocates dollars already in the region. When total employment is taken into account—including that created by capital investment, visitor activity, and so forth—the total number of jobs created by the University is around 56,400 and total labor income is more than $3.2 billion.

Capital Expenditures

The University’s annual capital investments support around 3,300 jobs and bring in about $162 million of labor income to the state economy.

Purchasing

The University and its affiliates purchased almost $1 billion of goods and services in 2015, about $217 million of which was spent in New York, touching all but five counties.

Fiscal Impact

2015 Fiscal Impact on New York State

Total taxes generated including sales tax, New York personal income tax, and local property taxes.

- **Total taxes (millions of dollars)**
  - **TRADED SECTOR**: Direct $84.7, Spillover $40.7
  - **LOCAL AND TRADED SECTOR**: Direct $123.8, Spillover $60.4

- **Total taxes generated in New York State**: More than $14,800,000
  - **More than $14,800,000**
  - **$3,000,000–$14,800,000**
  - **$1,500,000–$3,000,000**
  - **$300,000–$1,500,000**
  - **Less than $300,000**

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Research
Research is a significant component of the University’s economic impact. Total labor income from Rochester’s research enterprise is $312.2 million. In the medical school alone, research grants and contracts support well over 3,000 positions either wholly or in part.

Grant Activity
The University has received nearly $1.8 billion in external funding (federal and non-federal agencies) over the last five years.

![Graph showing grant activity for FY 2011 to FY 2015.]

Patents Issued
The University had 74 patents issued in 2015, up slightly from the year before.

![Graph showing patents issued by country for FY 2011 to FY 2015.]

Invention Disclosures
The University had 151 invention disclosures in 2015.

![Graph showing invention disclosures for FY 2011 to FY 2015.]

Changing the Culture of Career Development
Alumni and others have new opportunities to be involved in students’ career preparation.

For college career centers, the name of the game these days is making connections. This fall, Rochester’s Gwen M. Greene Career and Internship Center is launching new programs for alumni volunteers and others to do just that.

A fixture on college campuses since the postwar era, career centers have always changed shape with the times. They emerged at teacher-training colleges in the early 20th century as a way of helping teachers find posts. In the wake of the G.I. Bill, when they became more widespread and began working with a larger and more varied group of graduates, the emphasis moved to human development and the workplace as a psychological environment. In the booming U.S. economy of the 1980s, they became a convenient interviewing and hiring hub for employers.

“Now it’s about connectivity, about facilitating and brokering relationships, and teaching students about how to make connections online as well as in person,” says Joseph Testani, appointed last summer as executive director of the center.

As a result, he and his colleagues are introducing a range of programs that will bring students together with employers and alumni in venues such as industry- or location-based fairs, road trips that take students off campus to visit alumni in the workplace, and workshops.

Interacting with alumni will give students “more exposure to the possibilities of how they can apply their degrees in ways they probably haven’t thought about,” Testani says.

It’s just one facet of a larger effort to reconceive career preparation. Although currently it’s mostly juniors and seniors who use the center, Testani says he and his staff work with everyone from prospective students to graduate students, in every field connected to Arts, Sciences & Engineering.

And thinking about career possibilities and readiness is moving out of the center and into every facet of campus life. Building career skills is happening all the time, in classrooms, in student organizations, and in community experiences, says Testani.

Richard Feldman, dean of the College, calls the move a way of maximizing what the school provides students and says that “shifting the campus culture toward support of career development” is “exactly the right thing to do.”

—KATHLEEN MCGARVEY

For more information, visit Rochester.edu/alumni/stay-connected/volunteering/arts-sciences-and-engineering-career-center.

NETWORKED: Alaina Tosatti ’10, Zachary Gartenhaus ’17, Christopher Ostwald ’17, Jon Onyiriuka ’08, University Trustee Gwen Greene ’65, Eugene Heimann ’18, Lesley Mah ’17, and Sharon Gunther ’11 met at a finance networking event in Manhattan’s Theater District.