Examples of community enrichment:
• nearly $1 million in financial incentives to help University of Rochester regular full-time and part-time faculty and staff achieve the dream of homeownership in city neighborhoods surrounding the University. More than 300 mortgages have been supported since the program began in 2008.
• more than $1.5 million contributed annually by the University community to the United Way of Greater Rochester
• a collective 30,000 hours of community service per year provided annually by undergraduate students, about 60 percent of whom take part in service.

Economic Development
The University partners with our surrounding neighbors, the City of Rochester, and private developers on projects to revitalize and redevelop the areas surrounding the University. The University helped make projects like Brooks Landing and Riverview Apartments possible by leveraging our employee and student populations and geographic proximity in order to be an anchor tenant renting office space and student housing. In total, the University of Rochester leases 1.4 million square feet of space in locations throughout the region, which involves more than $178 million in annual lease payments. We also used 16 acres of University land to develop College Town—the culmination of years of community planning—which will not only generate tax revenue but also will revitalize the commercial corridor that serves as a gateway to the city.

The University also helped create and supports the region’s technology commercialization ecosystem. Excell Partners, an affiliate of the University, provides critical seed-stage support designed to advance lab-to-market commercialization initiatives and is one of the only existing sources of capital committed to funding seed-stage technology ventures across upstate New York. Since its inception in 2005, Excell has invested in 22 new high-technology ventures. These startups employ 207 FTEs at an average salary of $70,000 per employee and have secured more than $90 million in follow-on funding—leveraging Excell’s investment by more than 35:1.

For more than 20 years, High Tech Rochester (HTR), a subsidiary of the University, has served as the region’s only state and federally designated business incubator. The critical services it provides bolster efforts to harness local innovation and technologies and help transform these discoveries into new and growing companies. Over the last five years, more than 90 startup client companies have participated across all HTR startup-related programs, both here in Rochester and statewide. HTR’s new 68,000-square-foot Finger Lakes Business Accelerator is under construction and will serve as an anchor to the historic Sibley Building’s $200 million redevelopment and the City of Rochester’s new Downtown Innovation Zone. It is estimated that over the next five years the Business Accelerator will create more than 100 new companies and 1,000 new jobs in the region.

If you have any questions about ways that the University of Rochester partners with and benefits the community and region, please contact the Office of Government and Community Relations at (585) 273-5955.

President’s Message
As a large, diversified institution, the University’s community contributions cover a multitude of programs and services that benefit Rochester residents and the Finger Lakes region. This includes financial assistance for those who cannot afford to pay for their health care; improved access and readiness for higher education, incentives and financial support to encourage home ownership; enrichment of Rochester’s arts and cultural assets; programs that enhance the general welfare of the community; and direct contributions to dozens of worthwhile community organizations.

Our community impact is also felt through our efforts to educate current and future leaders as well as through our research that fuels innovations and allows us to develop new treatments and cures for many diseases and afflictions, meet our future energy needs, spark new businesses and economic growth, and enhance our security. The University offers extensive resources and hundreds of dedicated volunteers and collaborators with local partners to connect with and support the Rochester community in innumerable ways, from job readiness training to helping eliminate health disparities for children, from lead poisoning research and abatement in inner-city housing to school-based health clinics and annual school physicals to helping people more easily access health services and take part in wellness practices that prevent illness.

We are proud to be an urban university; proud to be the major health care provider in this region; proud that our students, faculty, alumni, and staff are deeply involved in service; proud of the role we perform as employers, consumers, and neighbors in a community and region we dearly love.

As the area’s largest employer, we have a symbiotic relationship with the city of Rochester and the region. We pledge our continued commitment to enhancing the well-being of our community through our health care expertise, educational resources, and a genuine compassion and concern for the social and economic betterment of this region. Meliora,

Joel Seligman President and CEO, G. Robert Wilmot, Jr. University Professor, University of Rochester
Economic Benefits

The University of Rochester is a leading economic driver in this community and in New York State. We are upstate New York’s largest private employer and the state’s sixth-largest private employer. We are the leading and most specialized health care provider in the Finger Lakes region; the generator of an increasing number of new jobs, technologies, and businesses; and a significant contributor to rich arts and cultural resources. The Center for Governmental Research (CGR) has described the University as a “vital cornerstone for our region’s economic health.” According to a recent CGR report, the University of Rochester and its affiliates:

- are responsible for approximately 5,600 jobs and $3.2 billion in total wages across New York State and purchased local goods and services in excess of $217 million;
- spent an average of $270 million per year in capital improvements over the last five years, and a total of more than $1 billion since 2005;
- generated $184 million in sales tax, personal income tax, and local property taxes ($3.4 million in local property taxes alone);
- received more than $1.8 billion in external research funding between 2011 and 2015; and
- drew visitors who booked more than 24,700 hotel reservations.

Research

The University has received more than $1.7 billion in federal research funding over the last five years. As a result, our scientists continue to help shape Rochester’s emerging knowledge-based economy in fields such as life sciences, information technology, nanoscale imaging, energy and advanced manufacturing.

Our School of Medicine and Dentistry alone attracts more National Institutes of Health funding than all of the medical schools in Albany, Syracuse, and Buffalo combined.

The Medical Center is also one of the few institutions nationwide designated funding by the NIH to lead efforts to quickly advance treatments to patients and communities. At any given time, there are several hundred clinical trials under way, which provide our community early access to emerging technologies and experimental drugs and also generate new jobs and companies for our region.

Millions of lives have been saved or improved thanks to medical discoveries made by the University of Rochester, including the world’s first cancer vaccine, the vaccine that eliminated bacterial meningitis in children, and new methods to correct optical defects of the eye that has improved the vision of millions of people worldwide each year.

Health Care

As home to the region’s only academic medical center, the University is also the leading source of new physicians in the area and the safety-net provider for our most vulnerable citizens. We are home to the region’s only Level I Trauma Center, neonatal, pediatric, and adult intensive care units; a burn trauma unit; surgical transplant services; and other new and specialized 24/7 care unavailable elsewhere in the community. Through the University’s Center for Community Health mission, we provide important services, wellness activities, and community-based research that are designed to improve health outcomes, reduce costs, and eliminate health disparities. The Medical Center provides more than $235 million in community benefits and services. These include $85 million in discounted and unreimbursed health care and services to our most vulnerable populations; partnerships with Monroe County, the faith community, and other partners to eliminate racial disparities in immunization rates; lead poisoning research and abatement in inner-city housing; operating and supporting school-based health clinics, including one at East High School operated by our acclaimed School of Nursing, that provides a full range of primary care and behavioral health services; providing dental services to inner-city and rural youth through the Eastman Institute for Oral Health’s MIEMobiles and dental outreach clinics; and tobacco cessation programs, to just name a few.

We also support numerous free health care clinics, vaccinations, breast cancer screenings, and physicals every year. While many of these efforts go unnoticed, the investment is substantial, unique to this community, and represents one more way that the University of Rochester enhances the overall health of our community.

Education

The University’s Warner School of Education is committed to defining educational leadership that is research-based and tested against the realities confronting our nation’s schools and communities. Over the past 15 years, Warner has been awarded nearly $20 million in grants that have supported education reform in more than 20 school districts in western New York, including focusing on ways to improve educational outcomes in urban education. These grants supported programs in mathematics, science, literacy, and early childhood education; the education of students with significant disabilities as well as English language learners; and the professional development of more than 2,000 educators, more than half of whom engaged in extensive professional development of 50 hours or more. In addition, the Warner School has partnered with area groups to help transform and revitalize one of Rochester’s most distressed communities—the Beechwood neighborhood.

Since 2007, the University of Rochester’s Upward Bound programs have supported more than 300 low-income area high school students in an effort to increase the number of Rochester City School District (RCSD) students who apply and gain admission to college. The program has a 96 percent high school graduation rate, with 90 percent of students continuing on to pursue a higher degree.

The University also provides nearly $1.8 million in scholarships every year for RCSD students.

Arts and Culture

The University also enhances and contributes to the region’s uniquely rich cultural capital through ongoing initiatives that creatively connect our resources with the community, regardless of means. For nearly 100 years, the Eastman School of Music’s Community Music School has provided instruction to more than 60,000 students of all ages. Through our Eastman Pathways program, we provide generous scholarships to RCSD students, allowing them to participate in the program. The Memorial Art Gallery is one of the few university-affiliated art museums open to the public. Consistently recognized as one of the finest regional art museums in the nation, it serves more than 16,000 area school children annually at no charge. The University is proud to sponsor dozens of programs like these that harness the University’s expertise, talents, and facilities to benefit and enrich the entire community.

We are also proud sponsors of two of the many world-class entertainment attractions for the region, the internationally renowned Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival and the unique, multarts KeyBank Rochester Fringe Festival.

Community Enrichment

The University also enhances our community in many ways that go unrecognized but are of vital importance to the public. The Mt. Hope Family Center is a nationally renowned leader in human development, spearheading research and training in the areas of human development, child maltreatment, and mental disorders in both children and families. The center provides evidence-based intervention and prevention treatment to more than 900 at-risk children and parents each year. The University also works to expand home ownership opportunities and investments in local programs, initiatives, and events.

A New Partnership with East High School

In February 2015, the New York State Education Department delivered its final approval to the plan for the University of Rochester to serve as the Educational Partnership Organization for East High School, beginning in July 2015. The University is excited to work with Rochester educators, families, students, and the community to ensure the success of East and its students. The plan is designed to support a shift in the school culture, enhance the academic program, and increase supports for students and staff at East to succeed.

The East community adopted a restorative practice approach to community building and to address behavioral incidents. The change in culture and discipline approaches, as well as additional student support by community partners and increased number of social workers and counselors, resulted in a significant decrease in suspensions, increasing scholar time in the classroom and engagement with the community. Another significant focus involved creating a strong foundation for scholars in ninth grade and ensuring that significantly more scholars attend school and accumulate enough credits to advance from ninth to tenth grade. In recent years, only 45–55 percent of scholars advanced on time from ninth to tenth grade. We know that ninth grade is highly predictive of future success and persistence to graduation. Current estimates indicate that 70–75 percent of ninth graders will advance to tenth grade with enough credits to keep them on track to graduate on time. The higher advancement rate is an important indicator that graduation rates will continue to improve.

In addition to the University of Rochester School-Based Health Center that has long offered medical and mental health care to East scholars, the University is expanding its support of East through the following partnerships under development:

- The UR Flaum Eye Institute and the Eastman Institute for Oral Health are working to expand vision care (screening, referral for examination, and provision of glasses) and dental care for the 1,350 students at East and families in the surrounding neighborhood. In June 2016, the Eastman Institute for Oral Health conducted approximately 300 dental screenings for East students.
- The Department of Pediatrics Division of Adolescent Health has been recently funded by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation ($600,000 over three years) to expand its services in mental, sexual, and nutritional health care at the UR School-Based Health Center at East.