Throughout our 162-year history, the University of Rochester has been committed to the success of the greater Rochester community, and our futures are inextricably linked. As the University has grown, so has the number of our connections and contributions to the vitality of the region. Every day, the University makes significant economic, educational, social, and cultural contributions to the Rochester community and to the state.

The University provides essential benefits to the public through our core missions—patient care, research, teaching, and community health. Fulfilling these missions without both public and private support would be impossible. We serve this community best by focusing on these missions. As a result, we are one of the leading higher education and research institutions in the world today and play an active role in creating positive change in our local community.

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 surrounding 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; 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 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, hundreds of dedicated volunteers, and collaborates with local partners to connect with and support the Rochester community in innumerable ways, from job readiness training to helping eliminate health disparities for inner-city children 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 a 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.

Joel Seligman
Economic Benefits

The University of Rochester is a leading economic driver in this community and in New York State. We are the region’s largest private employer and the state’s seventh-largest private employer. We are the leading and most specialized health care provider in the Finger Lakes, the generator of an increasing number of new jobs, technologies, and businesses; and a generator of an increasing number of new grants supported programs in mathematics, science, literacy, and early childhood education, as well as the education of students with significant disabilities and English language learners, and the professional development of more than 37,000 educators, in 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 nearly 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 $1.7 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, in the areas of education, health care, and job readiness training and innovation, which harness the University’s expertise and talents to benefit and enrich the entire community.

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 800 at-risk children and parents each year. The University also works to expand home ownership opportunities and invest in local programs, initiatives, and events (United Way; Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection; the Xerox Rochester International Jazz, Clothesline, and Fringe festivals, and many more).

Examples of community enrichment:

- $504,000 in financial incentives to help University of Rochester students gain full-time and part-time faculty and staff achieve the dream of homeownership in city neighborhoods surrounding the University
- More than $1.5 million contributed by the University community to the United Way of Greater Rochester, through a campaign chaired by President Seligman that raised $28.6 million in 2013
- $392,000 in direct support to various community groups
- 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 is also an active partner and leader in many regional economic development activities.

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 has 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. We have also made 16 acres of University land available 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. Currently, more than $120 million (600,000 sq. ft.) in additional private investment in the city is planned thanks to support from the University.

The University also works with a number of partners to foster the commercialization of technology and regional economic development from our research. Excel 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, Excel has invested in 22 new high-technology ventures. These start-ups employ 207 FTEs at an average salary of $70,000 per employee and have secured more than $90 million in follow-on funding—leveraging Excel’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. In the last five years, HTR has had an estimated impact of nearly $500 million and created and/or retained 2,554 jobs. The critical services it provides bolster efforts to harness local innovation and technologies and help transform these discoveries into new and growing companies.