Funding and Legislative Priorities

TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN

New York STATE

UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
For more than 165 years, the University of Rochester has brought together education, research, and commercialization to advance knowledge, to break new intellectual ground, and to improve lives both here in Rochester and around the world. The pathbreaking ideas of our faculty, the achievements of our graduates, the quality of our patient care, and the creativity of our artists have shaped a nationally recognized tradition of achievement that I can promise you will only grow in the future, with your continued support.

We have grown to be the 8th largest private employer in New York State and the largest private employer in upstate New York with 26,673 total employees, an increase of 905 employees since last year. Overall, it is estimated we provide a total of 50,300 direct and indirect jobs in the region and $2.8 billion in direct and spillover wages. Since 2005, we have led or facilitated more than $1 billion in capital projects to expand our capacity and support new, innovative programs and services for our students, patients, and help attract and retain talented faculty.

We are grateful to Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature for designating the Institute for Data Science as a Center of Excellence last year—the first major step in realizing this exciting project—and look forward to the state’s continued support as we continue to develop what is already one of the top ten most powerful university-based supercomputing sites in North America. We continue to move forward with this $50 million project, including construction of Wegman Hall, a new 60,000 square foot, state-of-the-art building to house the Institute, on which we will break ground this year.

Last October, we dedicated College Town, where shops are now open for business, apartments are being rented, and office spaces are being filled, with more storefronts opening throughout 2015. In August, we opened The Flats, a new 170-bed residence across the river in Brooks Landing. This year, we look forward to the completion of the new $145 million Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong, the largest construction project in the University’s history, and will begin construction on a three-story, 92,000-square-foot building along East River Road near the I-390/Kendrick Road interchange to relocate outpatient imaging and some pediatric outpatient care.

Last year, the Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE) successfully concluded its 25,000th experiment to create and study extreme states of matter. Since its inception, the LLE has helped us lead an international effort to achieve inertial confinement fusion, a potentially game-changing source of future energy, and has attracted almost $2 billion to the state, including $68 million in federal funding last year to support this cutting edge research.

As the area’s safety-net provider and most specialized health care center in upstate New York, it is critical that the University of Rochester Medical Center be able to maintain its excellence and meet the increasing demand for care generated by the implementation of health care reform and an aging population. Academic medical centers need adequate, sustainable funding for graduate medical education to ensure our ability to train the necessary supply of physicians to address our nation’s growing health care needs. We will continue to support a community-wide approach to funding medical education and healthcare infrastructure to ensure access to medical personnel and sustain the region’s reputation for high quality care.

I am honored to have the opportunity to continue to work with Governor Cuomo and our State Legislature as the co-chair of the Regional Economic Development Council. With new state support awarded last fall, the University and the region as a whole is moving forward with projects that will accelerate the development and commercialization of new technologies, help small businesses grow and prosper, train our workforce for the jobs of the future, revitalize key industrial development sites, and strengthen our communities and quality of life.

I am proud of the advances our University has made thanks to our partnership with New York State, but our work is but begun; I look forward to all that we can accomplish together in the years ahead.

Joel Seligman

From THE PRESIDENT of
THE UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
TABLE of CONTENTS

2015 NEW YORK STATE FUNDING & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

INSTITUTE FOR DATA SCIENCE: A NYS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ........................................ 03
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR THE ROCHESTER REGION .................................... 04
INVEST IN HIGH-QUALITY PATIENT CARE ........................................................................ 05
SUPPORT BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH .................................................................................. 06
SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS ........................................................................... 07
LABORATORY FOR LASER ENERGETICS ......................................................................... 08
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION .............................................................. 09
ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION ............................................................................... 10
Institute for Data Science: A NYS Center of Excellence

According to IBM, every day we create 2.5 quintillion bytes of data—so much that 90% of the data in the world today has been created in the last two years alone. This explosion of data creation, capture, and use has engendered a need to better understand the interrelation of data and its productive uses. Yet, it is estimated that the U.S. will experience a shortage of approximately 200,000 skilled data scientists, managers, and analysts.

To meet this challenge and to build on our institutional strengths, the University has adopted data science as its top priority in its 2013-2018 Strategic Plan and announced a $100 million plan to create an internationally distinguished Institute for Data Science. The academic home for this Institute will be a new 60,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that will also house the newly designated NYS Center of Excellence in Data Science. The University requests $25 million in public funding to match the $25 million in private support already committed.

Support from NYS

New York State has an opportunity to make a strategic investment that will establish the state as one of the world’s leaders in this new, defining discipline. Thanks to previous support from the state, the University of Rochester is already among the top ten most powerful university-based supercomputing sites in North America, and home to the most advanced computer system dedicated to health research in the nation—the Health Sciences Center for Computational Innovation (HSCCI).

Research Capabilities

The unique data science capabilities at the University have already generated more than $300 million in research funding over the last six years and involves more than 650 faculty, students, and research staff from more than 40 departments across the University. Rochester researchers are at the forefront of efforts to use big data to model and predict the spread of infectious diseases; model and replicate human perception; predict the existence of planets; understand human origins; explore new ways to create faster devices through integrated circuit design; and tackle issues that were previously too difficult to address because of the lack of processes to collect, manage, sort, and analyze enormous amounts of data. In June 2014, the University opened the Visualization-Innovation-Science-Technology-Application (VISTA) Collaboratory, which creates the immersive visual experience necessary to allow researchers to understand and manipulate large and complex sets of scientific information. Only Stanford University and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee have developed similar capabilities.

Rochester Center of Excellence in Data Science

Established in last year’s state budget, the Center of Excellence in Data Science will position the Rochester region and the state as a hub for new talent and a leader in analyzing and commercializing the limitless uses of data to improve quality of life and fuel economic growth. The Center will develop new discoveries and techniques, encourage rapid commercialization of scientific breakthroughs, and produce highly trained specialists that will have a profound economic impact on this discipline. While the new Center will bring leading, highly talented researchers, engineers, and computer scientists together with the necessary resources to empower collaborations in data science and other fields, it will initially focus on three domains: Predictive Health Analytics, Cognitive Systems, and Analytics on Demand.

Economic Impact

This project will bring enormous economic benefits to the region, and as such, has been endorsed as a Transformative Priority Project by the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council and the Rochester Community Coalition. An analysis by the Center for Governmental Research projects that the University’s Data Science initiative will create 460 jobs both at the University and in the community, generate $23 million in labor income, almost $2 million in tax revenue, and attract about $530 million in research funding over 10 years.

Public-Private Partnerships

The Institute promotes the expansion of industry and government partnerships, and is building on existing data science-related collaborations with Xerox, IBM, Wegmans, the National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Defense, and state-based, University-sponsored economic incentives such as STARTUP-NY. Google, Apple, Microsoft, Facebook, and many other major developers actively recruit computer science graduates from the University, and high-tech industry leaders from many of these companies serve on the University’s External Advisory Committee. Rapid development of other strengths in research and education in data science will further advance our relationships with these and other major companies. Beyond university-industry-government research collaborations, the new Institute will help to meet the growing workforce demands of New York State companies by establishing new graduate and undergraduate programs, including one already customized for Xerox engineers.

The Institute for Data Science is estimated to...
- Create 460 jobs at UR and in the community
- Generate $24M in labor income and almost $2M in tax revenue
- Attract $530 in sponsored research funding

Rochester researchers are at the forefront of efforts to use big data to model and predict the spread of infectious diseases, explore new ways to create faster devices through integrated circuit design, and tackle issues that were previously too difficult to address.

2015 REQUEST:
The University thanks Governor Cuomo for including $872,333 in the 2015-2016 Executive Budget for the Rochester Center of Excellence in Data Science, and requests $1 million in operating support and $23.5 million in capital support for this new facility.
Rochester’s health care system has the unique advantage of nearly a century of collaborative community planning and has long distinguished itself as a community able to develop innovative, cooperative approaches to health care financing and delivery. The benefits of this community approach have resulted in costs that are 20% below the national average with excellent quality and access. In fact, a report issued by the Institute of Medicine states that Rochester’s annual cost-per-Medicare beneficiary is the lowest in the country.

An engaged business community; health planning to ensure adequate capacity and quality; locally controlled not-for-profit health systems and health insurance plans; shared infrastructure; and a nationally ranked medical school have all contributed to a system among the best in the nation. Taken together, these factors have yielded scientific discovery and progressive clinical practice as well as a teaching program that has provided a reliable pipeline of medical personnel across our region.

Currently, the three Rochester-based provider networks train a total of 916 residents, 42% of who remain here for their first professional position. This has enabled Rochester to avoid the severe physician shortages experienced elsewhere. An equal number of doctors who graduate from the University’s School of Medicine and Dentistry affiliate with the local non-University health systems as with the Medical Center.

Our community’s ability to attract and compete for the best students, physicians, and faculty is dependent on the quality and quantity of our academic research. Residents want to train at prestigious institutions with groundbreaking clinical research and have access to the best physician mentors. These interrelated missions allow the next generation of practitioners and academic leaders of education, research, and community health to apply this knowledge to patient care. This translational research, which enables patients early access through clinical trials to emerging technology, drugs and procedures, also generates new jobs and companies for the region.

A Community Solution to Maintaining Rochester’s Health Care Excellence

Educating and training physicians is not possible without both public and private support. As a source of medical innovation and discovery, academic medical centers and teaching hospitals are inherently more expensive to operate. In recognition of the public benefit of these interdependent missions and the differences in operating costs, the Medicare and Medicaid programs include special payment adjustments for graduate medical education (GME). In addition, health plans help support GME through rates they negotiate with teaching hospitals, but that funding model may not be sustainable because of the implementation of health care reform. To ensure that our delivery system maintains its excellence and is able to meet the increased demand for physicians generated by the Affordable Care Act and an aging physician and patient population, the health systems, health plans, and business leaders in this region support an innovative financing approach for these essential community benefits. By spreading the cost of GME not currently funded by Medicare and Medicaid across the community and investing in community health infrastructure, we can ensure that the Rochester area maintains a necessary supply of skilled physicians.

Covered Lives Assessment

The mechanism for collecting public funding is the current Covered Lives Assessment (CLA), which was created by the New York State Health Care Reform Act (HCRA) in 1996 and provides a regionally specific per-insured-person assessment that would be used to fund selected state-funded health care activities. The CLA would be collected from health plans based on the number of “covered lives” in the Rochester region. Reflecting the community’s history of developing innovative solutions to local problems, the increase in the HCRA CLA to provide the earmarked funding would be only for the Rochester region.

Approximately $100 million in GME support is currently generated from the rates the area hospitals have negotiated with private payers, which covers additional expenses of operating hospitals with residents and fellows. The CLA adjustment would replace that support, and each system would reduce its hospital inpatient and outpatient rates by the amount of that adjustment, so that this change would not trigger an increase in premiums and each hospital would receive the same payment as it does now.

We are also proposing the creation of two additional pools of $5 million each to support medical training infrastructure and community health initiatives. To protect the pipeline of new physicians, $5 million in new funding would support associated research and educational costs incurred by Medical Center faculty who teach students and residents at the other local hospitals.

Funding will also provide $5 million in support for valuable shared community health infrastructure that improve quality, affordability, and accessibility through collaborative community efforts. A total of $2 million of this funding would be dedicated to the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA) and would serve as a local match for proposed state funding for regional health planning.

Currently, these services are funded by voluntary contributions, with certain local health plans, hospitals and employers bearing a disproportionate share of the expense. With these proposed changes, Rochester would continue to have among the lowest private health insurance costs in the country, but secure the reliability of its physician workforce from which this community has benefited for nearly a century.

Support from NYS

The University and its community partners seek support for AB 4878 (Morelle) and SB 3366 (Robach), a community-wide approach to fund critical medical education and healthcare infrastructure needs that will sustain the region’s high quality of care and access. We ask the Governor and the Legislature to support this proposal.
As one of the leading academic medical centers in the country, the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) receives funding from the state that has a profound effect on our research, teaching, patient care, and community health missions. As the safety-net for our most vulnerable citizens, the University’s health care delivery network – UR Medicine – provides innovative, high-quality patient care at Strong Memorial Hospital, Highland Hospital, Thompson Health, Visiting Nurse Service of Rochester and Monroe County, and The Highlands at Brighton.

**Protect New York’s Hospitals and Nursing Homes**

New York’s hospitals and nursing homes continue to grapple with years of past and future cuts to both Medicare and Medicaid, along with changing reimbursement formulas and other provisions directed by health care reform. Health systems are becoming capital-starved and are having difficulties investing in information technology, care coordination, and integration of care, among other critical investments.

*We urge the state to:*

- Reject the Governor’s proposal to reduce reimbursement through the federal 340B program for outpatient prescription drugs.
- Retain and expand critical healthcare investments proposed in the Governor’s Executive Budget including new capital funding and funding that recognizes the needs of rural providers.
- Honor commitments from last year’s budget, since the lack of federal approval has caused the 2% across-the-board Medicaid cut to remain in place.
- Provide additional support and regulatory relief to assist providers on the path to healthcare transformation.
- Oppose harmful proposals that would impose arbitrary nurse staffing ratios.

**Support for New York’s Home Care Agencies**

New York’s home care providers have had to manage repeated, unsustainable cuts to Medicaid reimbursement rates while undergoing a massive change and transition toward mandated enrollment of Medicaid/Medicare long-term care patients into managed care plans.

*We urge the state to:*

- Invest in health information technology and integrated clinical technology for home care and incentivize advances and innovation in quality.
- Modernize long-outdated insurance law coverage provisions for home care which do not recognize the modern system of care delivery and the role of home care today, including elimination of artificial limitations and coverage for home care innovations in care transitions and care management.
- Ensure that rate methodologies for managed care and managed long term care premiums and provider payments are adequate to meet service goals and requirements.
- Authorize Department of Health to have regulatory flexibility to streamline managed care-home care regulations.

**Support for New York’s Academic Dental Centers**

The five academic dental centers in New York State, including the Eastman Institute for Oral Health, serve as the largest providers of comprehensive, preventive, primary, and specialty oral health care to Medicaid recipients, the uninsured, and the state’s most vulnerable groups. We are pleased New York State recognizes the importance of continuing adult Medicaid coverage for dentistry, since prevention and early detection of disease are the cornerstones of decreasing Medicaid costs.

**Avoid Harmful Changes to Medical Malpractice Law**

With some of the highest malpractice awards in the nation, New York would benefit from tort reform that could save hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary health care costs for patients, providers and the state. If this already fragile situation is exacerbated, it could have deep repercussions on the ability of hospitals and physicians to provide the best possible care to our patients.

*We urge opposition to measures that would raise the cost of premiums and add unnecessary strain to a medical liability system that is not financially sustainable.*

**FACTS**

- The Eastman Institute for Oral Health provides 64% of all Medicaid dental care visits in Rochester each year.
- The Visiting Nurse Service completes more than 600,000 visits to 11,000 patients per year.
Scientific advances in health research hold the potential for new ways to understand, prevent, and treat diseases, as well as the ability to gauge the effectiveness of various medical interventions to improve the quality and delivery of health care. New York State possesses a significant academic infrastructure of skilled researchers who are not only in position to make significant strides in health discoveries, but grow and reshape the entire field of biomedical research and inevitably drive our regional economies.

Support Stem Cell Research
The Empire State Stem Cell Program (NYSTEM) has strengthened the University of Rochester’s groundbreaking research programs and its scientists are recognized as pioneers in the field. There are more than 40 labs working with stem cells at the University of Rochester Medical Center and these labs employ more than 260 scientists and technicians.

Our scientists have made tremendous progress over the last several years unlocking the potential of stem cells to treat a long list of diseases, and New York State’s continued commitment to stem cell science will ensure it remains a world-class leader in biomedical research. **We urge New York State to support its $600 million commitment to NYSTEM.**

Support Spinal Cord Injury Research
The New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Board (SCIRB) has provided more than $70 million in research funding toward treatments for spinal cord injury since its inception in 1998. Funded by a surcharge on traffic ticket moving violations, this program has produced tangible clinical and scientific advances from robotics-based therapies to highly effective cellular replacement therapies that have been transformative for patients with these injuries while reducing their health care costs and ensuring their ability to maintain active working lives. Research projects funded through this program have attracted significant federal and private research support, industry partnerships, and the development of multiple patents. **We urge New York State to fully restore the Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund to $8.5 million.**

Support the Faculty Development Program
Ongoing reductions in federal investment in research and higher education have reduced opportunities for discovery and innovation, and threaten the future of America’s next generation of scientists and researchers. Responding to these cuts, states across the nation are increasing their spending on biomedical research. Massachusetts, Texas, California and Connecticut have all instituted multi-million dollar programs to fund translational biomedical research. Researchers who cannot secure competitive funding in New York State will undoubtedly look to these states as funding from the federal government is reduced.

It is critical that New York State enhance its research faculty recruitment and retention efforts to ensure long-term sustainability and competitiveness in biomedicine. By facilitating the recruitment and retention of established investigators with significant existing research grants, the return on investment in research jobs and matching funds brought into the state will be almost immediate.

**We encourage New York State to commit $50 million to the Faculty Development Program to support biomedical research and maintain New York’s competitiveness in this field.**

FACTS
- Our scientists have made tremendous progress over the last several years in unlocking the potential of stem cells to treat a long list of diseases.
- Thanks to a NYSTEM Shared Facilities Grant, UR opened the state-of-the-art Upstate cGMP Facility to help accelerate research into human trials and ultimately new treatments.
Support Public Health Programs

State support for public health programs is critical to ensuring the development and expansion of academic-community health partnerships that improve the health of our community and provide important services to the underserved in our state.

School has more than 4,500 patient visits annually.

Health Centers

The University of Rochester sponsors the School Based Health Centers at East High School and at the Frederick Douglass Campus, which are two of the more than 200 School Based Health Centers statewide. Services to students include complete physical exams, health screenings, care for acute and chronic illnesses, mental health counseling, laboratory services, sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy testing and prevention, health education, and immunizations. Students receive services without regard to insurance status and are not charged any fees.

The Executive Budget proposes consolidating School Based Health Center funding into a Maternal and Child Health Program Pool and cuts total funding for these and similar programs by 15%. We urge full restoration of this program to make it possible for thousands of Monroe County residents to receive lifesaving cancer screenings and treatments without having finances be a barrier to their care.

FACT: Our School Based Health Center at East High School has more than 4,500 patient visits annually.

Support the Children’s Environmental Health Centers

The statewide, regional network of seven Children’s Environmental Health Centers is an efficient and cost-effective approach to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of children’s diseases caused by environmental factors and expands educational programs in children’s environmental health for professionals at all levels. These centers are addressing the major diseases confronting children today including asthma, autism, allergies, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, leukemia, obesity, diabetes and others. Thanks to state funding, the Finger Lakes Regional Children’s Environmental Health Center created an infrastructure dedicated to the education and outreach concerning environmental exposures in children and mothers through clinical and community outreach initiatives, including a 24/7 call center.

The Executive Budget proposes consolidating Evidence Based Cancer Services funding into a Chronic Disease Prevention Program Pool and cuts total funding for these and similar programs by 15%. We urge full restoration of this program to make it possible for thousands of Monroe County residents to receive lifesaving cancer screenings and treatments without having finances be a barrier to their care.

FACT: Due to early detection and treatment, the Cancer Services Program has resulted in nearly $46 million in annual savings to the State.

Support for School Based Health Centers

The University of Rochester sponsors the School Based Health Centers at East High School and at the Frederick Douglass Campus, which are two of the more than 200 School Based Health Centers statewide. Services to students include complete physical exams, health screenings, care for acute and chronic illnesses, mental health counseling, laboratory services, sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy testing and prevention, health education, and immunizations. Students receive services without regard to insurance status and are not charged any fees.

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FACT: Our School Based Health Center at East High School has more than 4,500 patient visits annually.

Support for Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders

The University of Rochester Medical Center is host to the Western New York Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders, one of three Comprehensive Care Centers statewide. These Centers provide an unparalleled, comprehensive range of specialized clinical services for patients with eating disorders and ensure individuals receive timely, appropriate care. In addition to medical and psychological services, the Centers conduct community outreach and prevention.

The Executive Budget proposes $118,000 for the Centers, a cut of more than 50% from last year’s budget. We urge the Legislature to dedicate $300,000 for the Centers in the 2015-16 Budget.

FACT: Over the past 5 years, the 3 Comprehensive Care Centers have treated in excess of 10,000 patients with eating disorders.

Support for Diversity in Medicine Program

With state support, the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) have offered an array of programs across the state with the intent of expanding the pool of students choosing careers in health and medicine, including the AMSNY Post Baccalaureate Program which provides academic enrichment and support to students from educationally or economically underserved backgrounds.

The Executive Budget proposes consolidating Diversity in Medicine funding into a Public Health Workforce Pool and cuts total funding for this and similar programs by 15%. We urge full funding of $1.7 million for the AMSNY Diversity in Medicine Programs.

FACT: After completing the one-year program, 94% of students matriculate in a New York State medical school.
The University of Rochester is at the forefront of energy research in our nation with a vital component of these endeavors stemming from the University’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE). Thanks to the strong and consistent investment from New York State dating back to 1983, through the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA), LLE continues to be one of the leading energy research facilities in the world, a significant source of innovation and talent, and one of the key economic drivers for the Finger Lakes region.

### About the LLE

LLE is a unique national resource not found at any other university in the country. It is a vital component of our nation’s scientific capital and leadership, and key to strategic work on an independent energy future. LLE is home to the OMEGA laser, which is the second most powerful ultraviolet fusion laser in the world, and the OMEGA EP (Extended Performance) laser, a high-intensity, high-energy short-pulse laser. LLE serves as the principal laser research facility for three national laboratories (Los Alamos, Sandia, and Lawrence Livermore).

As one of the preeminent research facilities for inertial confinement fusion and high-energy density physics research, LLE serves a critical national security function and is at the forefront of efforts to demonstrate the viability of nuclear fusion as an inexhaustible, clean, and affordable source of energy. LLE is also a magnet for scientific talent and one of the leading institutions for training the next generation of leaders in the fields of physics, optics, and materials science.

Nuclear fusion is the most basic form of energy in the universe, most commonly found in the thermonuclear reactions of the sun and the stars. Fusion energy can be used for electricity generation and national security-related applications, and does not produce nuclear waste or enhance nuclear proliferation. Fusion research is vital to maintaining the reliability and safety of the U.S. nuclear deterrent without the need for full-scale testing. Since the fuel source for fusion is water, controlled nuclear fusion has the potential to serve as a clean, affordable, and plentiful source of energy for the future. Once fully realized, inertial confinement fusion will not only diversify the State’s energy portfolio, but will advance the State’s energy and economic well-being. While challenges need to be overcome before fusion is an economically viable energy source, demonstrating the feasibility of inertial fusion energy as an inexhaustible, safe, and efficient source of energy would ensure that New York is the leader in reaping the incredible benefits of this technology.

### Support from NYS

Thanks to New York’s long-term support and commitment through NYSERDA, the University has leveraged substantial federal government and industry support. The approximately $700,000 in annual funding from NYSERDA has proven extremely valuable in demonstrating the State’s commitment to LLE and helping the University secure, on average, $60-$70 million per year in support from the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Thanks, in part, to the $691,000 included in the 2014-2015 Enacted State Budget, the U.S. Congress provided $68 million in funding for LLE in Fiscal Year 2015, an increase of more than $4 million over Fiscal Year 2014. The support from NYSERDA also has been critical in leveraging support for programs such as the Fusion Science Center, one of only two university research centers established by the DOE and only one supported by the New York State Legislature.

### Economic Impact

The economic impact of LLE on the Finger Lakes region is significant. Since its inception, LLE has attracted almost $2 billion to the state to support cutting-edge research, and more than 1,000 individuals are currently involved in the program. Through its National Laser Users Facility, the University attracts as many as 300 additional scientists each year from national laboratories, universities, and companies. Besides payroll and local purchases, LLE also provides a strong stimulus to the local economy through its advanced technology assets, which are the seeds that help attract and develop new companies and investors to New York State’s high-technology sector. The LLE is also nationally recognized as the only facility that trains graduate students in inertial fusion and thereby serves as a critical pipeline of future talent that is vitally important to our national and economic security.

### FACTS

- The OMEGA EP laser has 2,000 times more power than the entire U.S. electrical grid - making it among the most powerful lasers in the world.
- Scientists estimate that a nuclear fusion power plant could generate 1,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to power one million homes.
- QED Technologies, Sydor Instruments, and Lucid, Inc. are just a few of the local companies that were created – and continue to benefit us – as a result of LLE’s technology and research.

### 2015 Request:

The University thanks Governor Cuomo for including $691,000 in the 2015-2016 Executive Budget for LLE and requests the restoration of State support for LLE to its pre-2008 level of $750,000 and a reappropriation of $691,000 from the 2014-2015 Enacted Budget.
Support for the Regional Economic Development Councils and the Upstate NY Economic Revitalization Fund

The University is pleased to partner in Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) and the region was proud to be a Top Award Winner in the 2014 competition. Through unprecedented collaboration and the participation of more 400 Council and Work Group members, we have developed a shared vision for the region’s economic future. Thanks to support for projects such as the Institute for Data Science, College Town, and High Tech Rochester’s Finger Lakes Business Accelerator, the region’s transformation is well underway.

We thank the Governor for his leadership and the State Legislature for its support and urge continued support for a fifth round of funding for the REDC program, as well as $1.5 billion for the new Upstate Revitalization Fund.

Support Venture Capital Funding

The availability of seed and venture capital funding has been identified as a challenge to New York’s innovation ecosystem. While New York universities rank second nationally in total research spending, New York attracts only 4% of the nation’s venture capital investment while California attracts 47%. Excell Partners, Inc., an affiliate of the University of Rochester located at Eastman Business Park, works in partnership with the state to manage a state-supported fund which provides pre-seed and seed stage funding to high-tech start-up companies in Upstate New York. Due to the high risks inherent in very early stage investing, few venture funds make seed investments, particularly in this region. Yet a tremendous research base exists in Upstate NY to generate commercially viable technologies, particularly in the life sciences, and Excell is positioned to help identify promising technologies and accelerate the creation of new technology-based businesses. Due to its strong track record and large geographic impact, Excell was one of the first to receive funding through the State’s Innovate NY program. The University and Excell Partners strongly supports Governor Cuomo’s proposed doubling of the Innovation Venture Capital Fund to $100 million and seek continued opportunities to partner with the State to provide early-stage, high-potential growth companies with the critical resources needed to propel New York’s innovation economy.

Support the Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs)

Despite acute challenges in the local economy with the downsizing of Kodak, Xerox, and Bausch+Lomb, the University’s Center for Emerging & Innovative Sciences (CEIS) has had success generating growth in optics, photonics, and imaging through industry-university collaboration and technology transfer for more than 20 years. As one of only 15 CATs statewide, CEIS applies world-class research at the University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Cornell University toward the commercialization of technologies and products to help meet industry needs. We thank the Governor for including $13.82 million in his 2015-2016 Executive Budget and urge the Legislature to maintain this funding in the 2015-2016 Budget.

Support Business Incubation

High Tech Rochester (HTR) is an affiliate of the University of Rochester and the region’s only state and federally-designated business incubator. HTR’s programs and services support innovation and growth across all stages of the company life cycle. HTR also manages and coordinates NYSERDA’s statewide effort to place experienced business executives known as “entrepreneurs-in-residence” with new and emerging technology-related companies to help them grow, gain viability, and create revenue. In 2013, an HTR- and RIT-led consortium of regional incubators was designated an Innovation Hot Spot. Thanks to support from New York State, HTR has had an estimated economic impact of nearly $500 million and created or retained more than 2,500 jobs over the last five years. HTR’s Business Accelerator is estimated to create more than 1,000 new jobs in the form of new start-ups and business expansion. We thank the state for awarding $5 million to the Business Accelerator project in the 2014 REDC process that allowed the project to move forward.

FACTS

- Notable research and technology development at the University of Rochester led to the cancer vaccines Prevnar, Gardasil, and Ceravix, and advancements in LASIK surgery.

- Over the last five years, CEIS has reported more than $200 million in economic impact, constituting a 32:1 return on the state’s investment. Last year alone, CEIS had over $38 million impact.

- HTR is home to New Energy Xcelerator in UpState NY (NEXUS-NY) aimed at identifying and commercializing clean energy technologies in upstate New York, one of three clean-energy Proof-of-Concept Centers.

- Excell Partners was awarded $2 million through the Innovation Capital Fund in February 2015.
Support for Higher Education

Higher education provides immeasurable value to New York’s students and is one of the best investments a society can make. Support for strategic investments in research capacity and activities, as well as funding for student financial aid, fosters the type of innovative programs that have long distinguished the University of Rochester and benefitted the entire state.

SUPPORT TAP
The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) provides grants to nearly 375,000 state residents enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program at a college or university in New York State. TAP is a critical resource for helping New York State students access higher education in their home state. We strongly support the additional $43 million in funding for TAP in the Executive Budget and urge the Legislature to maintain this commitment to TAP.

SUPPORT HEOP
The Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), jointly sponsored by the University of Rochester and the New York State Department of Education, provides support services and financial aid to disadvantaged New York State students. The program attracts students from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and is especially attractive for those students and families, who, because of their academic and educational backgrounds may not have considered attending the University of Rochester. We support the proposed $1 million increase for HEOP in the Executive Budget.

SUPPORT BUNDY AID
Direct Institutional “Bundy” Aid supports independent colleges and universities in New York State by providing modest funding based on the number and level of degrees each campus confers. At the University of Rochester, these funds are passed along directly to our students to provide scholarship assistance for New York families that have exhausted other forms of financial aid. While the $1 million we receive in Bundy Aid may seem small in comparison to the total level of financial aid we award, it is vitally important to the overall tuition assistance we are able to provide our students. We support the level funding for Bundy Aid in the Executive Budget and urge the Legislature to maintain this funding.

SUPPORT NURSING EDUCATION
The University of Rochester urges continued support for the Senator Pat McGee Scholarship Program and Nursing Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program, as well as the High Needs Nursing Program, in order to continue to address nursing shortages in upstate New York. Many outstanding nursing students have been able to attend the University of Rochester’s School of Nursing thanks to the scholarship support available through these valuable programs. We support the full funding for these programs and urge the Legislature to maintain this level of support.

SUPPORT STEP
The Science and Technology Entry Programs (STEP) play a critical role in expanding the pipeline of underrepresented and educationally and economically disadvantaged students in medicine. The University of Rochester, in partnership with the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) is one of 10 STEP programs to facilitate students’ entry to and graduation from college and health professions schools through rigorous academic enrichment. Since 2002, the AMSNY STEP program has served more than 5,050 students. To continue the goals of meeting the forecasted growth in demand for health professionals and to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in these fields, we support the Governor’s proposed increase for STEP.

We also urge the Legislature to expand the Governor’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Incentive Program to include private colleges and universities. The independent sector grants the majority of STEM degrees in New York State each year.

UR FACTS
- 845 UR students are relying on TAP this year.
- 845 students received Bundy Aid scholarships at UR in 2014.
- 100 students participate in HEOP at UR with an 88% graduation rate.
- Last year, the NYS nursing programs provided five UR students an average of $12,516 in aid.
- UR provided $96 million in institutional scholarships to students this year.