**University of Rochester**

**Employees**
- Faculty and Instructional Staff: 2,693
- Total Employees: 29,473
- Total Direct & Indirect Jobs: 56,000

**Students**
- Total Students: 11,149
  - Full-time
    - Undergraduate: 6,170
    - Graduate: 2,994
    - Professional: 430
  - Part-time
    - Undergraduate: 216
    - Graduate: 1,399

**Financial Aid**
- University of Rochester meets the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates earning admission to Arts, Sciences, and Engineering.
  - Institutional Aid: $211 million
  - Undergraduate students receiving any financial aid: 86%
  - Avg. grant aid: $28,344
  - Students receiving TAP: 779
  - Students receiving Bundy Aid: 806
  - Avg. loan debt at graduation: <$26,000
  - Loan default rate: <1%

**Research**
- External Research Funding: $362 million
- Federally Sponsored Research Funding: $262 million
- NYS and Local Government Sponsored Funding: $23 million

Recently ranked among the top institutions for NIH funding in biochemistry, microbiology and immunology, neurology, orthopedics, and public health & preventative medicine research.

**University of Rochester Affiliates**
- Strong Memorial Hospital
- Highland Hospital
- Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong
- The Highlands (Living Center, at Brighton, at Pittsford)
- Thompson Health
- UR Medicine Home Care
- Noyes Health
- Jones Memorial Hospital
- High Tech Rochester
- Excell Partners, Inc.
The University of Rochester’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE) is home to one of the most powerful high energy lasers in the world. It is the largest U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funded university-based research center in the nation and the only fusion research program jointly supported by the federal government, New York State, industry, utilities, and a research university. The LLE’s OMEGA Laser Facility is a vital contributor to our national security, an invaluable source of scientific education and leadership, and an engine of regional innovation and growth for the optics, imaging and photonics sector.

The OMEGA lasers (Omega and Omega EP) are the largest and most capable at any academic institution in the U.S. and worldwide. The LLE is recognized nationally and internationally for its critical contributions to the U.S. DOE’s Stockpile Stewardship Programs (SSP) in partnership with three national security laboratories (Los Alamos, Sandia and Livermore). The LLE is the most cost-effective facility in the SSP – performing 80% of all target shots used in the national Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) and High Energy Density Physics (HEDP) programs with only 13% of the National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA) ICF budget. More than 60% of the shots are for scientists at the national laboratories, universities and industry.

The LLE is the lead laboratory for the Direct Drive approach to ignition that was recognized as one of the three viable approaches to this important goal for science-based stewardship. OMEGA is also the staging and support facility for experiments at Livermore’s National Ignition Facility (NIF) and supports laser research for Sandia’s fusion approach as well as innovative fusion approaches in partnership with Los Alamos. Working with the national labs, LLE is also pursuing critical performance enhancements to the OMEGA Facility that will extend its capabilities to ensure a balanced approach to ignition and improve capabilities for high energy density research to maintain the U.S.’s global leadership and avoid a technological surprise from Russia or China.

About the Laboratory for Laser Energetics

The LLE is home to more than 300 professional, technical, and administrative staff. As the NNSA’s largest university-based program, it is nationally recognized as the only facility that trains graduate students from the University of Rochester and leading institutions such as MIT, University of Michigan, Princeton, the University of California, and SUNY Geneseo in ICF and thereby serves as a critical pipeline of talent that is vitally important to our national security and economic security. More than 330 University of Rochester students have completed Ph.D. degrees with the LLE’s support.

Faculty, Staff & Students

The LLE has a five-year, $345,094,000 Cooperative Agreement with the DOE/NNSA to provide the necessary resources to support the LLE’s research programs, operations, and experiments on OMEGA and OMEGA EP in support of an ignition demonstration on the NIF, the HEDP program, and basic science. The agreement is due to expire in April 2018 and the LLE is preparing a 4 and ½ year renewal agreement at the request of NNSA.

In FY16, the LLE received $68,000,000 from the federal government and currently has $68,000,000 pending in the FY17 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill. The LLE is leveraging its core NNSA laser capacity to expand into other mission areas and support other fields of science, including ARPA-E, DoE Office of Science, and DARPA.

In addition, the LLE receives critical annual support from the New York State’s Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA).
Economic Impact

Through its groundbreaking research, the LLE is a source of new start-up companies and a driver of New York’s optics, imaging, and photonics sector. Since its inception, the LLE has attracted almost $2 billion to New York State to support cutting-edge research. In 2016, the LLE made more than $4.4 million in local purchases. Besides payroll and local purchases, the LLE also provides a strong stimulus to the local economy through its advanced technology assets, which help recruit and develop new companies and investors. QED Technologies, Sydor Optics, and Lucid, Inc. are just a few of the local companies that were created as a result of the LLE’s technology and research. The LLE is also one of the highlighted priorities in the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council’s Upstate Revitalization Initiative Plan.

OMEGA Laser Facility

The Omega laser has been operational since 1995, stands 10 meters tall, and is approximately 100 meters in length. Its 60 laser beams focus up to 30,000 joules of energy onto a target that measures less than 1 millimeter in diameter in approximately one billionth of a second. The target chamber has more than 200 diagnostics attached to it. Omega has performed more than 25,000 shots to date. The facility cost approximately $65 million and was completed on budget and on schedule.

The Omega-EP Laser System has been operational since 2008 and added four ultrahigh-intensity laser beams to the LLE in a National Ignition Facility (NIF)-like architecture, with two of the beams capable of supporting picosecond operation. It is adjacent to the Omega laser and supports a wide variety of target irradiation conditions when coupled to Omega or operated in stand-alone mode. Omega-EP can provide a variety of pulse formats and can unleash more than a petawatt of power onto a target just a millimeter across. Omega-EP cost $90 million and was completed on budget and on schedule.

National Laser User’s Facility (NLUF)

The DOE designated the LLE as the National Laser User’s Facility (NLUF), and as a result the LLE annually hosts more than 400 scientists from 55 universities, more than 35 centers and national laboratories in 21 different countries on 4 continents to carry out fundamental research, training and education. NLUF provides a forum to discuss cutting-edge research at the OMEGA Laser Facility, enhances the capabilities of OMEGA through findings and recommendations, and offers mentorship and guidance for young researchers.

The DOE funds the operation of NLUF, making it possible for researchers to conduct experiments without a direct facility charge. In addition, the DOE provides research funds directly to users for experiments in inertial fusion and related scientific areas. More than 170 students from other universities have completed their Ph.D. degrees with support from the NLUF program.
Support for University-based Scientific Research

The Facts

Funding through the NIH is the University of Rochester’s largest source of federally sponsored research, receiving $156.2 million in NIH funding in 2016.

In 2016, the University of Rochester’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) received $19 million from the NIH to continue “bench to bed-side” programs that remove hurdles in the process of applying medical research to patient treatment and population health. This is URMC’s third Clinical and Translational Science Award, bringing total funding to almost $86 million.

In 2016, the University received a four-year, $2 million NSF grant to lead a photonics system integration research project to reduce the complexity and increase the capacity of quantum information processing for secure communication, sensing, and advanced computing.

Over the past five years, the University of Rochester has averaged more than $350 million per year in sponsored research funding. More than half of our nation’s economic growth over the past 50 years is attributed to innovation and scientific and technological progress, much of which is the result of federally funded scientific research. University-based scientific research fuels the new ideas and technologies on which our economy, health, and national security depend. Stable and sustained investment in research is critical to driving U.S. leadership in innovation, job creation, and long-term economic growth.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Biomedical research funded by the NIH and performed at research universities saves lives and helps assure U.S. leadership in the life sciences revolution of the 21st century. For example, the NIH, with the help of University of Rochester researchers and others, has made extraordinary progress toward development of a universal flu vaccine. In 2012 alone, NIH investment led to the creation of more than 400,000 high-quality jobs and generated nearly $60 billion in economic output. At URMC, over 3,000 researchers are spread across more than 250 centers, institutes, and labs pursuing cures and treatments. A recent study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that every additional $10 million in NIH funding generates 3.1 private-sector patents – one patent for every two NIH grants.

- We are grateful for the additional funding for NIH in the 21st Century Cures Act, and urge Congress to ensure that this funding supplements and does not supplant future appropriations for NIH. For FY17, we seek $34.5 billion for NIH. In FY18, provide a $2 billion increase for NIH over FY17.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

As the cornerstone of America’s basic research enterprise, the NSF is committed to fundamental, interdisciplinary, high-risk, and transformative research and education across all science and engineering disciplines. NSF-funded research has led to fiber optics, the Internet, nanotechnology, and many other advances. Robust and sustained support for NSF will help address the backlog of highly-rated research proposals that have not been supported due to insufficient funding.

- Provide $8 billion in discretionary funding for the NSF in FY18.
The DOE’s Office of Science is the nation’s primary supporter of research in the physical sciences, including fields such as high energy physics and fusion that support the University’s LLE. The Office of Science sponsors 50% of all university physics research at more than 300 institutions, and links to other fields such as the biological sciences, computing, and engineering. The DOE’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) supports research that is unlikely to be supported by industry, but has the potential to dramatically change how we acquire and use energy in the future.

- **Provide at least $5.7 billion for the Department of Energy Office of Science in FY18. In addition, please provide $350 million for ARPA-E and additional support for the Office of Fusion Energy Science, which funds the Fusion Science Center for Extreme States of Matter at the University of Rochester’s LLE.**

**Department of Defense (DoD) Basic Research**

Defense 6.1 basic research programs support cutting-edge scientific and engineering research as well as undergraduate scholarships, graduate research assistantships, and fellowships that maintain our military superiority and strengthen our nation’s scientific and technical workforce. DoD funded research is known for high risk, high reward endeavors that have led to paradigm shifts in the nation’s technical capabilities.

- **Support at least $2.4 billion in funding for Defense 6.1 basic research in FY18.**

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

For more than 50 years, NASA has captivated the public with accomplishments that have revolutionized our understanding of earth and space sciences, the life sciences, and aeronautics, and have led to new technologies. In addition to the space program and mission directorates, NASA’s university-based programs help educate America’s future technological and scientific workforce.

- **Support robust funding for NASA, including at least $5.9 billion for Science, $712 million for Aeronautics, and $796 million for Space Technology.**

A University of Rochester scientist received a $750,000 DOE Early Career Award to study the electronic structure and bonding of lanthanides and actinides, elements important to nuclear energy and nuclear proliferation, as well as the manufacture of semiconductors, hybrid car components, and glasses.

University of Rochester neuroscientists were awarded a $2.3 million DoD grant to develop new therapies for the emergency room and the battlefield to protect the brain and other organs at risk following trauma, heart attack, or stroke.

Since 2004, the University of Rochester has partnered with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory to lead development of the Near-Earth Object Camera (NEOCam), an infrared telescope and wide-field camera designed to discover and characterize potentially hazardous asteroids near earth.
Invest in High-Quality Health Care

Ensuring access and improving quality

UR Medicine is the safety-net provider and the largest, most specialized academic health care system in upstate New York. The reimbursement we receive from Medicare and Medicaid for Graduate Medical Education (GME), Medicare bad debt payments, Medicaid provider assessments, and Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments is critical to the accessible, quality health care we provide, and impacts our ability to train the next generation of providers.

A recent Institute of Medicine report highlighted Rochester’s annual cost-per-Medicare beneficiary as the lowest in the country, and UR Medicine helps anchor the region’s innovative, cooperative approach to health care financing and delivery that has resulted in costs that are 20% below the national average.

The Facts

UR Medicine provided more than $79.3 million in uncompensated care to indigent and uninsured patients.

In 2015, UR and Highland Family Medicine received a $1.65 million Title VII grant to fund NY’s first Nurse Practitioner Residency program, which, in collaboration with the University of Rochester School of Nursing, will prepare NPs for leadership roles in primary care.

UR Medicine serves 2.2 million patients annually at Strong Memorial, Highland, F.F. Thompson, Nicholas Noyes, and Jones Memorial Hospitals.

Protect Patient Health Care Coverage

As Congress and the Administration consider changes to health care, it is essential to protect hospitals’ ability to provide care to patients. In 2015 alone, underpayment by Medicare and Medicaid created a $57.8 billion gap that hospitals were forced to absorb. A recent report found that the Restoring Americans’ Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act (H.R. 3762) would create coverage losses costing hospitals $165.8 billion from 2018-2026. Hospitals would suffer a loss of $289.5 billion in Medicare inflation updates if the payment reductions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are not restored, and failure to repeal the ACA’s Medicare and Medicaid DSH reductions would amount to $102.9 billion in cuts. UR Medicine, its affiliates and collaborators would be subject to an estimated $629 million in cuts. Losses of this magnitude are not sustainable and will adversely impact patients’ access to care, decimate hospitals’ and health systems’ ability to provide services, and weaken local economies that hospitals help sustain and grow.

- As Congress considers the future of the ACA, any consideration of repeal must ensure replacement is simultaneous and meaningful for patients in the form of affordable, robust, and continuous coverage; for the State of New York and its localities that jointly support Medicaid; and for hospitals and health systems such as UR Medicine that need predictable and reasonable public and private coverage policies and appropriate payments to continue the transformation of the health care system and access to care for all New Yorkers.
Protect Graduate Medical Education (GME)
As the largest source of new physicians in this region, the School of Medicine and Dentistry trains 600 medical residents, 431 undergraduate medical students, and 152 fellows per year, approximately 50% of whom remain in the region for their first professional position. Funding for GME is essential for training new physicians, nurses, and other health care providers and ensuring continued access to high quality patient care. Strong Memorial Hospital received $42.9 million in Indirect Medical Education (IME) and $15.4 million in Direct Graduate Medical Education (DGME) funding, totaling $58.3 million in 2016. Reductions in GME’s IME adjustment and DGME payments would jeopardize the ability of medical schools and teaching hospitals to prepare the next generation of physicians and limit 24-hour care and critical services we provide the community.

- **Oppose reductions in Medicare funding for GME’s IME adjustment and DGME payments.**

Increase Medicare Residency Slots
As a result of the expansion of health care coverage and an aging population, it is estimated that the U.S. could face a shortage of 90,000 doctors by 2025. Many medical schools are increasing class sizes to accommodate these changes, but limits on the number of Medicare-funded residency slots constrain our ability to train new physicians to meet this need. Strong Memorial and Highland Hospitals are currently training 600 resident physicians and 152 fellows, however, under the 1996 residency slots cap, Medicare only provides reimbursement for the training of 505 of those residents.

- **Support the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act to increase the number of Medicare-supported residency slots to accommodate changes in our nation’s health care needs.**

Support the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
As the agency charged advancing behavioral health, SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America’s communities. The University of Rochester’s Mt. Hope Family Center is host to the only National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) in upstate New York, which is funded, in part, by SAMHSA. The Center recently received a five-year, $1.98 million SAMHSA grant to continue training professionals in trauma-informed care and provide evidence-based models of intervention for children and families exposed to trauma and violence. The grant will also allow the center to continue its role as the provider for the NCTSN in upstate New York.

- **Support at least $4.3 billion for SAMHSA in FY18.**

Support Health Professions and Nursing Education
The Health Resources and Services Administration’s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs provide education, financial aid, and training opportunities to health professions students in high-need disciplines and settings. As our nation transforms its health care system, these programs are critical to ensuring a strong workforce and access to care. With a focus on primary care and training in interdisciplinary, community-based settings, Title VII and VIII are the only federal programs focused on filling gaps in the supply of health professionals not met by traditional market forces.

- **Please provide at least $280 million for Title VII and at least $244 million for Title VIII in FY18.**
The Federal Pell Grant Program provides critical need-based grants to low-income undergraduate students who might otherwise not have access to college. At the University of Rochester, 1,113 students are receiving assistance through the Pell Grant program this year, with an average award of $4,499.

Federal Work-Study helps students finance the cost of college through part-time employment. In 2015-2016, the University of Rochester received $806,606 to support about 1,000 work-study positions. Nearly 20% of the University of Rochester’s FWS funding helps support the Career Services Job Location and Development Program and UReading, a tutoring and mentoring program that pairs undergraduates with preschool and kindergarten students from the Rochester City School District.

We must ensure all students have the opportunity to attend college and improve their knowledge and skills for today’s workforce. Last year, with the assistance of Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, and other forms of state and federal student aid, more than one million American students earned degrees and are contributing to our economy.

**Support for Pell Grants**

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides critical need-based grants to low-income undergraduate students who might otherwise not have access to college. At the University of Rochester, 1,113 students are receiving assistance through the Pell Grant program this year, with an average award of $4,499.

- Maintain the discretionary base and allow the scheduled increase in the maximum Pell Grant to $5,290. Reinstate year-round Pell and ensure the Pell surplus remains with the program to cover future shortfalls.

**Support for Federal Work-Study (FWS)**

Federal Work-Study helps students finance the cost of college through part-time employment. In 2015-2016, the University of Rochester received $806,606 to support about 1,000 work-study positions. Nearly 20% of the University of Rochester’s FWS funding helps support the Career Services Job Location and Development Program and UReading, a tutoring and mentoring program that pairs undergraduates with preschool and kindergarten students from the Rochester City School District.

- Provide at least $990 million for FWS in FY18.
SEOG and GEAR UP provide grants to low- and middle-income students and fund programs that help at-risk students get into and stay in college. In the 2015–16 academic year, the University of Rochester received $550,488 in federal funding for SEOG, providing 1,055 students with an average award of $507.

- **Support $757 million for SEOG and $343 million for GEAR UP in FY18.**

**Support Funding for TRIO**

Federal Funding for TRIO programs such as Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math Science, and McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement provide vital outreach and student support services for low-income, minority, and potential first-generation college students. University of Rochester’s two highly successful Upward Bound programs are funded with a five-year, $2.4 million federal grant, and recently received $300,000 from the National Science Foundation to help Monroe Community College, Cornell University and D’Youville College expand their Upward Bound programs.

- **Support $890 million for TRIO in FY18.**

**Support Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)**

The GAANN grant program provides fellowships through academic departments to assist graduate students with excellent records who demonstrate financial need and plan to pursue the highest degree available in a field designated as an area of national need. At the University of Rochester, the departments of chemistry, nursing, optics, and physics have received funding through the program in recent years.

- **Provide $31 million for GAANN in FY18.**

**Support for Federal Loan Programs**

Federal support for student loans, particularly for graduate and professional students, has eroded in recent years. From the phase out of the Perkins Loan program to increased borrowing costs, these reductions in support have come at the same time demand for highly educated and trained workers is increasing.

- **We urge Congress and the Administration to develop a long-term strategy for sustaining federally-backed loan programs to ensure both undergraduate and graduate students can meet their financial needs.**

- **Provide $250 million to uphold the government’s obligation and begin the process of reimbursing colleges and universities for Perkins Loans cancellations.**
Support for Higher Education, the Arts, and the Humanities

Preparing our future leaders

Streamline the Regulation of Higher Education

Since 1965, the Higher Education Act (HEA) has been a critical vehicle for expanding access to postsecondary education for low- and middle-income Americans. As Congress seeks legislation that complements our efforts to make high-quality postsecondary education accessible, provide students with a world-class academic experience, and educate future leaders, reform should:

- Enhance college access
- Promote college completion
- Support effective assessment of student achievement
- Preserve diversity and quality
- Promote innovation
- Elevate graduate education
- Ensure appropriate accountability
- Streamline consumer tools, such as a streamlined FAFSA form to better help students and their families understand their educational options and the value of a college degree.

We also encourage Congress to pass legislation that builds off the work and recommendations of the bipartisan Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education to eliminate excessive regulatory burden and streamline duplicative reporting requirements for colleges and universities.

Support Education Research

The Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES) offers high quality, evidence-based research and innovations in teaching and learning. The Advanced Research Projects Agency for Education (ARPA-ED) pursues technological breakthroughs with the potential to improve the effectiveness and productivity of teaching and learning.

- Support at least $694 million for IES and $50 million for ARPA-ED.

Support International Education Programs

The Title VI programs support our nation’s long-term national security, global leadership, and economic competitiveness. The nation needs a steady supply of graduates with expertise in less commonly taught languages, world areas, and transnational trends to maintain U.S. diplomacy and future global engagement.

- Support at least $76 million for the Department of Education’s International Education and Foreign Language programs in FY18.
Support Programs to Assist Students with Developmental and Other Disabilities

The University of Rochester’s Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), advances services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The University of Rochester’s Institute for Innovative Transition, funded by the Department of Education’s Transition and Post-Secondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) program, supports students with intellectual disabilities in the transition to adulthood through access to higher education, vocational training, and job placement. The University also participates in the HHS Leadership in Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and Related Disorders (LEND) program to prepare graduate-level trainees for leadership roles in these fields.

- Please provide at least $40 million for UCEDD, $30 million for LEND, and $12 million for TPSID in FY18.

Support the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

NEA programs encourage creativity through support for performances, exhibitions, festivals, artist residencies, and other art projects throughout the country in a variety of disciplines that have a great impact on art education and local economies. Each NEA grant dollar is typically matched by nine dollars of additional investments in nonprofit arts organizations.

- Support at least $155 million in FY18 for the NEA to ensure sufficient support for the NEA’s grant-making programs.

Support the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

The humanities programs funded by the NEH are vital to ensuring that America can compete successfully in a global economy and advance sound public policy to address the challenges of the 21st century. These programs stimulate the creativity and innovation that have brought world leadership and underlie the cultural intelligence that is essential to successful diplomacy.

- Support at least $155 million for the NEH in FY18.

THE FACTS

- The University of Rochester is one of the highest producers of Fulbright scholars among U.S. research institutions, with 10 Rochester students receiving awards in the current 2016-2017 academic year.

- A $2.5 million TPSID grant awarded to the Institute for Innovative Transition in 2010 established a Western New York Consortium of local colleges and universities, including Keuka College, Monroe Community College, Roberts Wesleyan College, and the University of Rochester, which has served approximately 200 students with intellectual disabilities. In 2015, the Institute, as part of a consortium with the City College of New York (CUNY), received a second $2.5 million grant to help five colleges in New York City expand and create new inclusive college programs.
Support for Immigration Reform

A well-functioning immigration system is critical to our nation’s ability to grow its economy, strengthen families and communities, and uphold American values. It is also key to the continued success and prominence of the U.S. higher education system.

International students, scholars, staff, and their families contribute in innumerable ways to the academic and cultural life at the University of Rochester, and the community and world are made ever better as a result. They bring global perspectives and multi-faceted talent to classrooms and research labs, and support U.S. innovation through technology development that leads to new jobs and businesses. According to a survey by the Association of International Educators (NAFSA), foreign students and their dependents contributed $32.8 billion to the U.S. economy during the 2015-2016 academic year for living expenses, books and supplies, transportation, health insurance, and support for accompanying family members.

Support Smart Enforcement and Border Security Policies

Border security and interior enforcement are essential to a functioning immigration system and our national security, but must be done in a way that upholds American values, preserves our nation’s economic vitality and ensures public safety in a fair and just manner. Recent proposals to limit immigrant and non-immigrant entry threaten our nation’s standing as the destination of choice for the world’s best and brightest students and scholars.

For instance, a top candidate for the University of Rochester’s Eastman Institute for Oral Health’s (EIOH) Advanced Education for General Dentistry program recently turned down an offer of admission, explaining that current policies made it difficult to justify uprooting his family. Decisions like these will adversely affect not only the University of Rochester, but also the wider community. EIOH is one of New York State’s largest providers of oral health care for Medicaid recipients and the uninsured, and this loss will impact care for vulnerable patient populations. We must craft policies that secure us from those who wish to harm us, while preserving the tradition of international exchange that has fostered our nation’s scientific, technological, and scholastic prominence and sparked innovation, cures for disease, and helped ensure an adequate physician workforce.

In recent years, checks and detentions of our foreign students, researchers and faculty – among the most closely vetted and monitored groups of any international visitors – have caused undue hardship and created an unfriendly environment that has disrupted research and education activities at the University. Recent policy changes to increase interior enforcement must be implemented in a way that ensures those who are visiting the U.S. for scholarship, science, medicine, or to contribute to our nation’s workforce are able to achieve their goals and benefit our national interest.
Preserve Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

The advent of the DACA program in 2012 provided relief to undocumented students across the country brought here through no fault of their own, and has allowed them to achieve their full academic potential and become full participants in the American workforce. We encourage the Administration to uphold DACA, and ask Congress to support the BRIDGE Act (S.128 and H.R. 496) to allow legal status for DACA recipients.

Streamline a Path to Green Card Status for U.S. STEM Degree Graduates

The U.S. immigration system should be reformed in order to streamline the green card process for those who graduate with an advanced STEM degree from a U.S. higher education institution so our nation can reap the benefit of having educated these future leaders. STEM graduates are innovators, job-creators, and critical to the nation’s research enterprise and growing our economy. We urge Congress to expand the green card program and establish a clear path to green card status for advanced STEM degree graduates of U.S. colleges and universities to allow the “best and brightest” to remain here to utilize their skills and contribute to our economy.

Protect H-1B, J-1 and OPT Employment and Training Programs

As a nation, we rely on talent from around the world to make our economy prosper. The H-1B program is critical for filling gaps that exist in the U.S. workforce with highly skilled workers from other nations. To hire H-1B professionals, U.S. companies already must meet strict criteria set by the U.S. Department of Labor to protect American workers, such as ensuring prevailing wage and providing notice to other workers in the same occupation. Even at the program’s height in 2001, H-1B professionals made up only one-tenth of one-percent of the U.S. workforce. We urge Congress to expand the H-1B program and maintain the higher education exemption from the H-1B cap.

The J-1 work- and study-based exchange visitor program has allowed URMC to fill health care specialty positions and ensure health care providers in underserved communities. The Optional Practical Training (OPT) program allows foreign U.S.-educated students to remain in the U.S. upon completion of their studies for further training and enrichment opportunities. Protect the J-1 visa program and OPT programs to ensure access to the expertise needed to fill our nation’s innovation, research, and health care sector needs.

FACTS

- The University of Rochester has more than 2,350 international students, 480 scholars and employees from over 100 countries.

- International students and scholars at the University of Rochester contributed $132.7 million to our local economy last year.

- According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. share of international students is decreasing as other countries recognize the value of attracting students from outside their borders.

- The National Science Board’s 2016 Science and Engineering Indicators report shows the U.S. is also losing global market share of international R&D, which is directly linked to global mobility.
With 29,473 total employees, the University has grown to be one of the largest private employers in New York State and the largest private employer based in upstate New York. We have brought education, research, and commercialization together to become a major hub of innovation and economic growth. As a result, the University is an active partner and leader in efforts to promote and grow our regional economy. The University was proud to have helped lead the effort to secure a $110 million national photonics award that will be headquartered in Rochester and builds on past efforts at the federal level, as well as to lead the effort to win an historic $500 million award from New York State to revitalize our economy.

- We thank Congress for its support of academic-based economic development programs and seek its support to address burdensome policies and regulations that inhibit our ability to continue to add jobs, expand our research capacity, and create new companies and technologies.

Support the National Institute for Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program

High Tech Rochester (HTR), the region’s only state- and federally-designated business incubator, is an affiliate of the University of Rochester. HTR is one of New York State’s ten designated Regional Technology Development Centers and part of the NIST MEP. The mission of MEP nationally – and of HTR’s services in the Finger Lakes region – is to support the growth of small- to mid-sized manufacturing companies to help them create and retain jobs, improve productivity, reduce costs, and expand capacity. For every one dollar of federal investment, the MEP generates $17 in new sales growth and $24 in new client investment, which translates into $2.3 billion in new sales annually. Over the last five years, HTR has completed more than 300 projects with 180 growth stage manufacturing companies.

- Support at least $1.019 billion for NIST and $151 million for MEP in FY18.

Strengthen Employer-Provided Education Assistance

The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 127 employer-provided education assistance program is an important tool that allows employers to attract the best possible employees and build a skilled workforce. The benefit allows employees to exclude up to $5,250 from their income per year in assistance for any type of undergraduate or graduate educational course, and is largely utilized by non-traditional students looking to build their skills while working. Unfortunately, the benefit amount has not increased in nearly 40 years.

- Support an increase in the Section 127 benefit and expand the eligible uses to include loan repayment, and spouse and child eligibility.
**Support the Student Worker Exemption Act**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandates that employers with more than 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, including colleges and universities, offer health insurance to nearly all employees—including graduate students—working 30 or more hours per week. We appreciate the temporary enforcement relief provided through the 2016-2017 academic year, however, if allowed to take effect, this requirement would inflict significant budgetary and administrative burdens and require the nearly impossible task of separating graduate student work done for a degree from “employment” work done for the University. Our students already have access to quality, affordable health care coverage through a variety of means, including the University-subsidized student plan, which costs one-third of an employee plan and has comparable coverage consistent with the ACA.

- **We encourage Congress to seek a permanent solution to allow universities to continue to provide student health insurance at little to no cost to graduate students. As Congress revisits the ACA, we request clear guidance that will allow students to receive such coverage without liability under the ACA.**

**Protect Charitable Giving**

Research universities, in an era of diminished federal research funding, increasingly rely on philanthropy to help achieve their non-profit missions of teaching, research, patient care, and public service. Tuition does not cover the full cost of educating students and research grants do not cover the full costs of the research enterprise. The federal income tax deduction for charitable gifts is a vital incentive to individuals, families, and businesses to make donations that make it possible for universities to fulfill these missions. Charitable deductions are the primary source of funds for college and university endowments.

- **Strong tax incentives for charitable giving, including the deduction for charitable contributions and the IRA Charitable Rollover, should be preserved.**

**Preserve the Intent of Endowments**

University endowment funds are an important source of revenue which support teaching, research, and public service missions, and are carefully managed to strike a balance between the demands of current operations and providing purchasing power for future operations. The majority of these funds are subject to restrictions that donors impose and that institutions are legally required to uphold. Some funds, such as the approximately 228 endowed funds that support the Eastman School of Music, provide support for a broad range of purposes. Others provide support for very specific needs, such as the McCurdy fund, which provides revenue for the operating and maintenance costs of the University’s Interfaith Chapel to ensure the campus community has a sacred place for contemplation and worship. Each provides vital support for the many endeavors of the University’s faculty and students. This includes financial aid—this year, the University is providing a record $211 million in institutional aid to students, 18% more than last year—and faculty support as well as support for certain facilities and academic programs such as libraries, laboratories, clinical practices, medical research, new technologies, growth and vitality of the arts, and other physical assets of the University.

- **Oppose proposals that will inhibit institutions from utilizing endowment funds for the purpose for which they were gifted—to strengthen access, affordability, and the quality of a Rochester education, and provide the highest quality care.**