The three universities that make up Michigan’s University Research Corridor (URC) – Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University – are a key asset for the state’s economy and create a talent network that makes Michigan competitive around the world, according to the report “Attracting, Fostering, and Inspiring Talent for the Global Economy.”
**JIM RAINES**
**U-M SPACE PLASMA PHYSICIST**

Jim Raines grew up in Blissfield, Mich. and earned his Ph.D. in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences from U-M. In his current role as a space plasma physicist at U-M, he works with NASA at the university. “Our department is one of the best in the world,” he said. “It’s a real blue chip for Michigan.”

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**RODNEY WHITAKER**
**HEAD OF MSU JAZZ PROGRAM**

Rodney Whitaker, a University Distinguished Professor of Jazz Bass and Director of Jazz Studies, heads the Jazz program in MSU’s College of Music. Whitaker has built the program into one of the leading jazz degree programs in the U.S. An internationally renowned recording artist, Whitaker has toured the world and attracts many outstanding musicians back to MSU. “Imagine that you’re a young student and you’re choosing your university,” he said. “This becomes the place you want to call home.”

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**GERARDINE MUKESHIMANA**
**RWANDA MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL RESOURCES**

Professor Dan Clay and fellow Spartan Gerardine Mukeshimana are great examples of Michigan State University’s ability to impact the global economy. Clay’s research in Rwanda supports the value chain development of coffee, a large part of the country’s economic reconstruction post-genocide. Mukeshimana is the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda, and has been recognized for her significant contributions to the breeding of the common coffee bean for drought tolerance and disease resistance.

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**DAN CLAY**
**MSU PROF. GLOBAL PROGRAMS SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS**

**ANTONIO LÜCK**
**MANAGING DIRECTOR ENDEAVOR DETROIT**

Antonio Lück was serving as an advisor to the president of a university in Brazil when he came to WSU as part of a student exchange program. He received his master’s degree from WSU and continues to work in the entrepreneurial ecosystem, currently as Managing Director of Endeavor Detroit. Lück is one of hundreds of Brazilian students that come to the United States to attend WSU.

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**EMILY LOWThER**
**PH.D. STUDENT IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, WSU**

Emily Lowther, a Ph.D. student in Speech-Language Pathology came to Wayne State University from Australia specifically because of the research opportunities. Aside from the academics, she has found Michigan – and Detroit, in particular – to be rich in history, art, music and cultural diversity. “The people I’ve met here have been incredibly warm and welcoming,” she said.

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**FRIB**
**MSU’S FACILITY FOR RARE ISOTOPE BEAMS**

Michigan State University’s Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) will attract highly-skilled researchers from around the globe. “We’re building something that’s never been done before,” said Thomas Russo, the electrical engineering department manager at FRIB. “People from all over the world are flocking to work on FRIB.” The facility is expected to be the birthplace of many major scientific breakthroughs and is slated to open in 2022.

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**SUSAN GALANTOWICZ**
**SENIOR DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL RESEARCH OPERATIONS J.D. POWER AND ASSOCIATES**

Susan Galantowicz, a graduate of U-M, is Senior Director of Global Research Operations for the Services Industries division at J.D. Power and Associates and said she actively recruits students from the three URC schools. “I can confidently say that newly hired associates who come from U-M, Michigan State and Wayne State typically exceed our expectations,” she said.

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**TED SERBINSKI**
**TECHSTARS MOBILITY**

Techstars Mobility, a noted startup accelerator, has set up shop in the Motor City to help establish the next generation of mobility and transportation companies. “There is this growing intersection between Detroit’s entrepreneurial resurgence and the automotive industry embracing the fact that the way people move around is changing. We want to play a major role in that intersection of future mobility,” said Ted Serbinski, Managing Director of Techstars Mobility. “We’re surrounded by three incredible universities, with U-M, Michigan State and Wayne State. When you look closely at innovation and startups, there’s often a correlation with really great universities. These universities will allow us to have a long-term viability in this region and allow our startups to hire incredible, local talent.”

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These are just a few of the profiles that convey the strength of the talent of the URC universities that impact the economy of Michigan and the world. Read more about the URC’s work to attract, develop, and retain this world-class talent and view these and additional profiles online at [www.urcmich.org](http://www.urcmich.org).