ENGAGING DETROIT: URC’S CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESURGENCE IN THE MOTOR CITY

$958 MILLION in economic activity to the city of Detroit in 2015

$1,400 per Detroit resident

$263 MILLION in Detroit research in 2015

URC ACCOUNTS FOR ONE IN 20 JOBS IN DETROIT

THAT IS MORE THAN 11,600 JOBS

More than 340 programs and initiatives in Detroit

More than 28,000 URC students being educated in the city

Nearly 1/3 focusing on improving education

More than 700 research grants

334 Medical + 428 Detroit-centric

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Since 2008, Michigan’s University Research Corridor (URC) – an alliance between Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University – has commissioned a series of reports examining its contributions toward key sectors of Michigan’s economy, including entrepreneurship. Key findings include:

**SECTOR REPORTS**

**‘15’**

- Among top research university clusters in the U.S., the URC ranks **first** in medical degrees, total degrees awarded and enrollment, and second in advanced degrees in high-tech fields such as engineering and sciences.
- Of the 32,000 URC graduates each year, more than a third earn degrees in **high-demand fields** such as medicine and engineering.
- Ann Arbor, East Lansing and Midtown Detroit residents 25 and older are three times more likely to have a degree compared to other Michigan communities.

**‘14’**

- **One in five Michigan jobs** (718,700) is associated with water-enabled or water-related industries.
- From 2009-2013, URC universities received 2,100 awards totaling nearly $300 million and supporting **341 researchers** from dozens of departments for water-related research and outreach.
- Each year, URC universities produce more than **3,400 graduates** prepared to analyze and find solutions to water-related issues in academia, government and the private sector.

**‘13’**

- A 2013 survey of URC alumni found **19.1%** of respondents had founded or co-founded a business.
- URC alumni entrepreneurs started or acquired businesses at **double the national average** rate among college graduates between 1996 and 2012, and many of these companies were in fields outside their major area of study.
- URC alumni entrepreneurs have started businesses in **every state**, and over 100 countries.
- **Nearly half** of the businesses started by URC alumni entrepreneurs began in Michigan.
- URC alumni-started firms were nearly **1.5 times more likely** to stay in business versus the national average.

**‘12’**

- The URC universities confer more than 3,600 degrees annually in auto-ready disciplines, supplying the industry with talent.
- Between FY 2007 and 2011, the URC universities spent $300 million ($60 million annually) on **more than 1,400 auto projects**. Over 28% of the research was funded by private industry – nine times the average share of industry funding for all university R&D at these institutions.
- URC researchers have helped automakers improve vehicle quality, safety, engine efficiency and performance, and reduce fossil fuel use.

**‘11’**

- The URC universities spent nearly **$74 million** on research projects with a strong IT focus in FY 2010.
- Nearly **40%** of the approximately 150 URC-assisted start-ups between 2001 to 2011 had an ICT component.
- Information technology employs about 3.5% of the state’s workforce (**135,000 workers**) – a significant stand-alone sector and the underpinning for much of the major industry activity and growth represented in previous sector reports.

**‘10’**

- Michigan’s life sciences industry employed **more than 79,000 workers** (2.1% of all employment in 2006).
- From 1999 to 2006, life sciences employment **grew 10.7%** while manufacturing employment dropped 24%.
- Life sciences wages averaged $83,494 in 2006.
- In 2008, URC universities spent **$887 million** on life sciences research and development.
- R&D expenditures **grew 69%** since the founding of the Life Sciences Corridor in 1999.

**‘09’**

- In 2007, Michigan’s advanced manufacturing industry employs **381,351 workers**, 10.3% of all employment. One-third of the Midwest’s advanced manufacturing jobs are in Michigan, paying an average wage of $64,122.
- URC universities spent **$101 million** on advanced manufacturing R&D in 2009.
- URC universities are educating more than **14,000 students** in engineering.

**‘08’**

- Michigan has a **comparative advantage** in biomass and wind compared to the energy potential in the other 49 states.
- URC universities spent more than **$79.5 million** on R&D related to alternative energy in 2007.
- **More than 50%** of all alternative energy R&D supported the auto industry.