The URC’s $16.5 billion net impact in Michigan is up from $12.8 billion in 2007.

URC spent $2.15 billion in R&D expenditures, an increase of more than 53% since 2007.

URC again ranked #2 in the Innovation Power Ranking, which indexes defining factors of leading research universities – talent, R&D and technology commercialization.

Since 2002, the URC universities have cultivated 210 startup companies, 79 of which have formed in the past five years.

URC ranked first among peer clusters in total number of degrees conferred in 2015.

URC alumni living worldwide, 651,000 of which live in Michigan.
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**

**ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

- 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 automotive industry.

**ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**

- URC universities spent **$101 million** on advanced manufacturing R&D in 2009.
- URC universities are educating more than **14,000 students** in engineering.
- 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.

**LIFE SCIENCES**

- 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.
- 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.

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

- 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.

**BLUE ECONOMY**

- 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.
- **One in five Michigan jobs** (718,700) is associated with water-enabled or water-related industries.

**ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

- A 2013 survey of URC alumni found **19.1%** of respondents had founded or co-founded a business.
- 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.
- 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.

**ATTRACTING, FOSTERING, AND INSPIRING TALENT**

- 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.

**ENGAGING DETROIT**

- The URC’s Detroit economic impact is **$958 million** (FY 2014).
- The URC accounts for **one in 20 jobs** in Detroit.
- The URC is engaged in more than **340 programs**, projects, activities and events in Detroit focused on community building, economic revitalization, public education, and public health.

**AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION**

- 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.

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