While there are more than 5,000 colleges and universities across the U.S., our nation has eight top research clusters, to which Michigan’s University Research Corridor—inclusive of the Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University—benchmarks each year to hold itself accountable for year-to-year performance.

**THIS YEAR’S BENCHMARK REPORT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- **#1 CLUSTER**
  for awarding advanced degrees in medicine and biological science.

- **#3 IN R&D GROWTH**
  from 2015-2016

- **#1 NATIONALLY IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT**
  and #2 in degrees awarded.

- **#3 ON THE INNOVATION POWER INDEX**
  trailing only the California clusters. This index shows how research universities are performing in talent development, R&D, and technology commercialization.
In 2016, the URC conducted nearly $2.3 billion on R&D, an increase of $130 million over its 2015 total R&D.

The URC accounts for 92 percent of all academic R&D in Michigan, which is a top ten state in the nation for total academic R&D conducted.

Overall, URC ranks #5 among the eight clusters for total R&D, however, URC increased R&D expenditures by 53.8% (the third-highest out of its peer clusters during 2007-2016).

URC increased science and engineering R&D expenditures by 5.7% between 2015-16; this growth exceeded the increase for all institutions across the U.S. as well as the peer cluster average.

URC has cultivated 230 start-up companies, 81 of which have formed within the past five years—or more than one start-up every month.

The venture capital community in Michigan continues to grow, which can only mean positive things in tech transfer and by many measures, activity in Michigan has outpaced venture capital nationally over the last five years. According to Michigan Venture Capital Associations 2017 annual report,

from 2011-16, the number of VC firms nationally grew by 10 percent, while growth in Michigan was 25 percent;

total capital under management in Michigan grew by 60 percent to $2.4 billion, compared to the national growth of 22 percent;

and the number of startups getting funded grew from 42 percent to 54 percent.