

# HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, May 2011

## University Research Equals Major Impact on Economy

**R**OCKETTS CAPABLE OF POWERING SPACE travel. Medical breakthroughs capable of saving lives. High-tech computer systems designed to propel society into the future.

These are just a few areas with local startup businesses that Utah's research universities—the University of Utah and Utah State University—have launched. These startups are examples of the enormous employment and financial impact that Utah's two research institutions have on the state, more important than ever in challenging economic times.

A March 2011 report released by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) at the David Eccles School of Business at the University of Utah, states that in the last 40 years, startup companies from U of U were responsible for more than \$754 million in state-

wide earnings, 15,000 jobs and 188 companies in the state of Utah. In 2009, the U of U surpassed both Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and California Institute of Technology as the number one research institution in the country, contributing approximately \$1.2 billion to Utah's gross state product. Additionally, the U of U receives millions of dollars in research contracts each year resulting in licensing for even more new companies.

Further north, Utah State University has also emerged as one of the top research universities in the nation, producing marketable technologies that benefit Utah. USU is second in the nation in research funding received for aerospace engineering, and the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services ranks 5th in the nation in total research dollars received by a col-

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### Research universities paving the way for Utah's future...

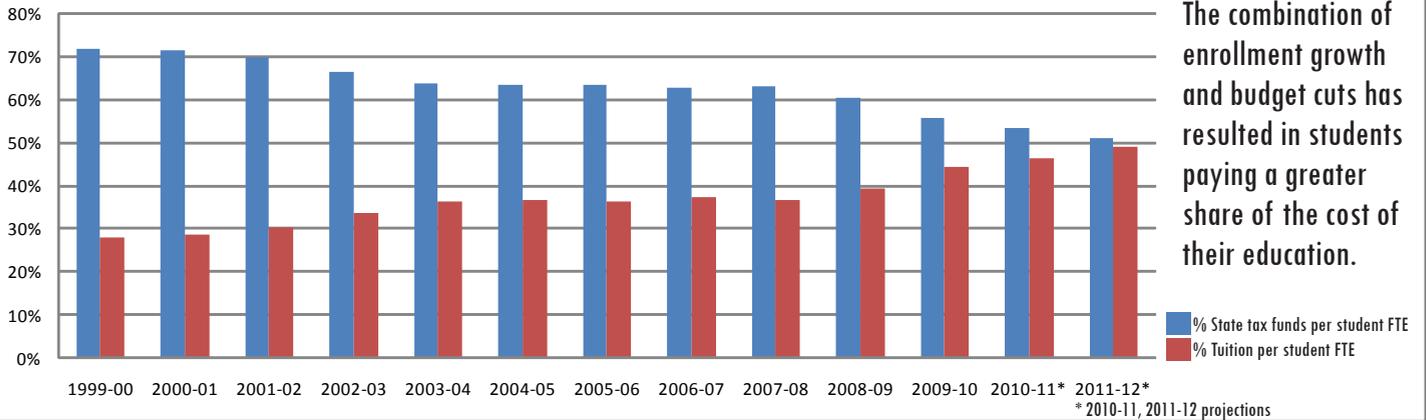


Dr. Kamal A. Rashid, Utah State University associate director of the Center for Integrated BioSystems, demonstrates to a Chinese delegation a bioreactor system. These bioreactors are used in producing biopharmaceutical products from animal cells in culture.

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## Where does the money come from? State funding vs. tuition

Utah System of Higher Education average | Percentage by source



The combination of enrollment growth and budget cuts has resulted in students paying a greater share of the cost of their education.

## Research university projects, programs present big boost to Utah's bankroll

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lege, with faculty and staff securing \$33.1 million in funded research dollars. Additionally, USU researchers were instrumental in bringing the first commercial wind farm to Utah, generating not only clean energy, but also potentially more than \$31 million in economic output for the state.

Furthermore, both the U of U and USU's participation with the Utah Science, Technology and Research (USTAR) initiative brings even more benefits to Utah.

In its first five years since being created by the legislature, USTAR's economic impact at USU has already created over 100 jobs, 56 invention disclosures and 16 patents. Along with the USTAR programs at USU and the U of U, regional Technology Outreach and Innovation Centers at Weber State University, USU-Uintah Basin, Utah Valley University and Southern Utah University campuses provide tech transfer opportunities in those areas.

Utah has established itself as a leader in science and technology. Through the world-class research conducted at the U of U and USU, supporting these institutions insures that the local economy continues to be positively influenced.



## Higher Ed Fast Fact

### 2011 Graduates

U of U = 7,416	SUU = 1,741
USU = 4,637	Dixie = 1,559
Snow = 920	UVU = 4,325
Weber = 3,633	SLCC = 4,091



**Total = 28,322**