UMass Lowell’s Impact on the Regional Economy

• For businesses in Lowell and the Merrimack Valley, UMass Lowell generated about $490 million in economic activity.

  This estimate includes only:

  o local operating expenditures of the campus ($294 million operating budget in FY10)
  o one-time major construction expenditures ($18 million in FY10)
  o the spending of UMass Lowell’s employees and students

• The purchasing power of UMass Lowell’s faculty and staff and 14,000 students supported 1,711 external jobs in sectors such as:

  o trade, transportation and utilities - 350 jobs
  o leisure and hospitality (included contracted dining services) – 330 jobs
  o education and health services – 290 jobs

• UMass Lowell is one of the largest employers in Lowell and nearly 400 Lowell residents work at the university (data from 2008-2009).

  o 290 Lowell residents were employed full-time
  o 102 Lowell residents were employed part-time

• Lowell residents on the UMass Lowell payroll received a total of $23.1 million in salaries, wages and benefits from UMass Lowell in 2008-2009 -- $16.8 million of that is in salaries and wages alone.

• $32 million was spent on construction, supporting 153 jobs. Fiscal Year 2010 one-time construction project expenditures at UMass Lowell totaled nearly $18 million, spinning off more than $14 million in additional economic activity. Major renovation and construction projects in FY10 included:

  o UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center
  o Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center
  o Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell.
• About $8 million in community-engaged research projects directly and indirectly benefit Lowell. Projects include:

  o $756,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to teach “The Science of Small Things” – about nanotechnology – to Lowell public school students;
  o $725,000 from NSF and the Commonwealth Alliance for IT Education (CAITE) supported an “Artbotics” program in which Computer Science and Art faculty with Lowell’s Revolving Museum introduce high school students to computing through robots;
  o $780,000 from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program to help deploy broadband infrastructure in Lowell and surrounding underserved areas and to enhance and expand computer and broadband access;
  o $1.1 million supports service-learning courses in the College of Engineering that link students to community service opportunities in and around Lowell.
  o About $180,000 in grants support Lowell’s “creative economy,” for programs such as multi-cultural music performances downtown, youth murals on immigrant heritage and a Jack Kerouac exhibit at the National Park Service Visitor Center.

• UMass Lowell’s technology research drives the innovation economy in Lowell and beyond, generating jobs for the future.
  o M2D2, the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center, is generating new start-up medical device companies, five of which are new companies located in the Wannalancit Mill incubator on Suffolk Street.
  o The Massachusetts BioManufacturing Center is helping companies to develop new biopharmaceuticals.
  o The Nanomanufacturing Center has captured millions in outside funding and is helping regional companies develop new nano-based products.