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Tennessee Board of Regents

Academic Affairs Brief

Volume 1

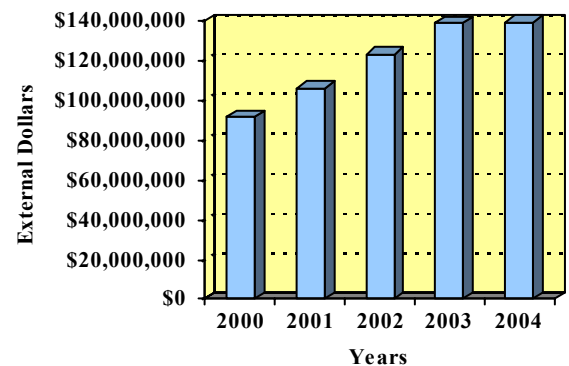
Number 2

FOCUS ON RESEARCH

This is the second in a series of short papers on topics of interest, and it highlights the favorable impact and benefits of research innovations by the universities and community colleges of the Tennessee Board of Regents. During the 2003-04 fiscal year, university research dollars accounted for \$53 million of the \$139 million dollars in university external funding. Over the last five years, TBR institutions collectively have increased external research dollars over 52%. Although funding is a key reporting element, national recognition, pioneering innovations, special collaborations, and unique partnerships are just as important. The TBR's research and sponsored programs promote lifelong learning and contribute substantially to the quality of life of citizens in Tennessee and nationally. Below, we provide a glimpse of the research efforts that impact Tennesseans and contribute favorably to Tennessee's expanding economy.

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Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

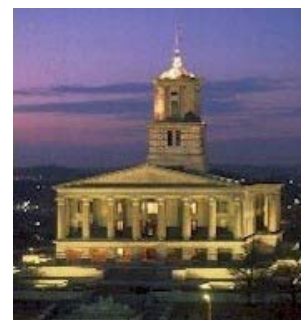
University External Funding



ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RESEARCH TO THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

University research impacts Tennessee's economy through an infusion of external dollars focused on the search for and discovery of solutions to important problems facing the state – transferring discoveries into products that can help build a viable economic future for Tennessee. Using the federal multiplier, the \$53 million in research funding at TBR universities infuses over \$265 million into the state's economy. These numbers do not include the dollars generated from the nine licenses and 10 patents held by TBR institutions.

As research dollars increase, so will the economic benefit to the state. Nationally, recent studies indicate a return of up to 23 percent on every research dollar.



BENEFITS OF RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES TO TENNESSEANS

Tennessee Board of Regents institutions are engaged in a wide range of research activities of high value to the academic community, industry, regional economic development, and the health and welfare of the state's citizens. The highlights below illustrate the contribution of research to the quality of life for Tennesseans.

IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH

East Tennessee State University focuses on improving rural health care, offering a new and longer lease on life for citizens.

Tennessee State University laboratories conduct immune defense research and study issues of minority mental health.

University of Memphis provides analysis to support effective and efficient health care delivery systems.



IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Austin Peay State University specializes in Tennessee amphibians, vascular plants, and water education for teachers.

Dyersburg State Community College monitors the population of the endangered interior least tern.

Jackson State Community College works to increase the crop yield of cotton while reducing chemicals (in the environment) and production costs.

Tennessee Technological University excels nationally in fisheries assessment, remote bio-sensing, natural and constructed wetlands, the fate and transport of pesticides in the environment, and urban non-point source pollution best management practices.

IMPROVEMENTS IN EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE

Middle Tennessee State University engages in collaborative research related to the genetic basis of dyslexia.

Nashville State Technical Community College develops study methods in teaching and learning mirroring the context of real world workplace situations (through a National Science Foundation grant in conjunction with Roane State Community College, Austin Peay State University, Middle Tennessee State University, and Tennessee State University).

Tennessee State University initiates, produces and disseminates research and information to support the formation of important public policy and programmatic decisions by schools, agencies and communities in Tennessee and across the nation.

RECOGNITION THROUGH COLLABORATION

Partnerships bring recognition to our academic institutions and widen Tennessee's platform for international competitiveness. The map at right shows current collaboration nationwide by TBR institutions.

