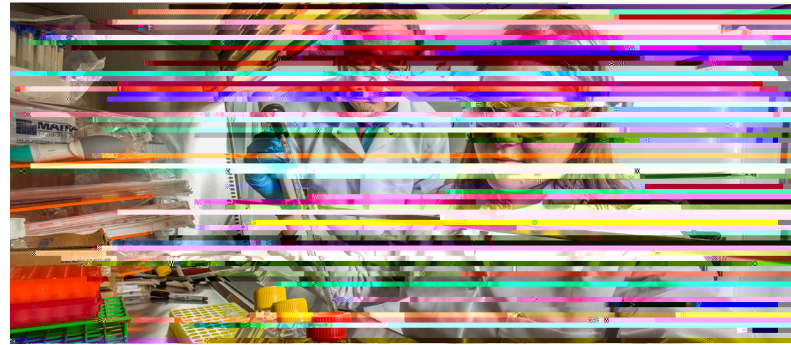


An economic driver for the state

University of Alaska research - whether social, economic or scientific - is done in the public interest and is of economic benefit to the state. UA research activity has many benefits. It informs policy decisions; helps the state prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies like the 2018 earthquake or tracking ash clouds from volcanic activity; and drives innovation and economic growth.

In July 2021, Dr. Mouhcine Guettabi explored the “University of Alaska Economic Research Enterprise.” He analyzed the amount of external funding UA researchers bring to the state, the number of jobs their research creates, and the overall benefit to the state economy. UA researchers do an exceptional job of generating funding.

- At UAF, the report found that for each dollar in state general funding a UAF researcher received in 2020, an additional \$5.6 was generated from external resources.
- UAA researchers generated an additional \$6.3 for every dollar received.
- In fiscal year 2020, UA institutions had research revenues of \$173.97 million dollars, an increase of 2.25 percent from FY 2019.
- Since most of the funding that supports UA research comes from sources outside the state, the research enterprise helps to drive the state economy.
- “The infusion of research dollars into Alaska leads to economic expansion and in the absence of these dollars, the economy would be smaller,” wrote Guettabi.
- Guettabi estimated the total economic impact of UA research to the state at \$242 million dollars in 2020.



In 2020, the economic impact of UA research activities to the state is estimated at \$242 million dollars.

- This impact is measured by the number of jobs supported, total payroll produced, and business sales generated in the state by research dollars.
- In 2020, 1,588 jobs could be traced back to university research spending. Of this, 1,073 jobs were within the university- faculty, staff, or student assistants - and another 515 were in a broad range of private businesses like construction, transportation, wholesale and retail trade, and services.
- These direct jobs and related expenditures generate secondary economic activity that affect the broad Alaska economy.
- The total payroll associated with these jobs was more than \$126 million, with almost 70 percent going to university employees and the rest to workers in the private economy.
- If we think of the state general fund appropriation for research as “seed money,” then the “bang per buck” for each \$1 million of general fund appropriation for research in 2020 was 45.21 direct jobs and \$3.66 million in payroll within the state.

