

Area's campuses fuel the economy



Photos, clockwise from top left, by JAY CAPERS, ANNETTE LEIN, SHAWN DOWD, MAX SCHULTE, SHAWN DOWD, WILL YURMAN, ANNETTE LEIN, MEGAN DAILOR and JAMIE GERMANO

Research, jobs drive the engine providing an edge for the future

MATTHEW DANEMAN | STAFF WRITER

Rochester's economic life for decades revolved around yellow boxes of Kodak film. The region's present and future increasingly are dominated by a different palette: the brick red of dormitories, the white of researchers' lab coats, and the blue of medical gloves.

As industry after industry shrinks locally, higher education is one of the few growth areas in an economy long dominated by the Big Three local high-tech giants — Eastman Kodak Co., Xerox Corp. and Bausch & Lomb Inc.

Many of the area's college campuses are booming — from the buildings sprouting at Rochester Institute of Technology and the spreading of the University of Rochester Medical Center campus, to the mushrooming enrollment at colleges such as St. John Fisher and Nazareth.

Together, the area's dozen major two- and four-year higher education institutions are increasingly major players in the local economy. They employ tens of thousands, and bring thousands of out-of-state

students to the area. Their research births new companies. And their resources help bolster existing companies.

According to a *Democrat and Chronicle* analysis, about 17,000 full-time workers in the Rochester area get a paycheck from one of the area's private colleges. Public higher education adds 3,100 full-time jobs.

To be sure, higher education doesn't fill every void in the local economy.

As nonprofit entities, they are exempt from paying property taxes. They face the same issues

Online Extra

DEMOCRATANDCHRONICLE.COM
 ▶ Click on this story to see an interactive map of the Rochester region's dozen major colleges. Check out an audio slide show about the impact of those schools on our economy.

Vital stats

Area colleges by the numbers, **16A**

Campus jobs

Applicants face stiff competition, **16A**

that hamper for-profit companies across the state, such as high utility costs, said Matthew Maguire, director of communications for the Business Council of New York. "RIT also has to attract talent from the four corners of the globe and has to pay workers' comp costs, has to buy electricity to run that researcher's computers, and has to pay her enough money to deal with property taxes she is likely to find absolutely stunning."

■ Area colleges fuel the economy in myriad ways, top row from left: Nurse **Danielle Dumrese** assists a burn patient at Strong Memorial Hospital. RIT grad student **Amanda Malone** works at student-centric Rochester Textbook Exchange in Henrietta. Plumber **Jeff List** of Batavia says benefits keep him at SUNY Brockport.

■ Middle row from left: **Carvin Eison**, with student **Lori Morse**, says SUNY Brockport and Rochester Community Television are parts of the same career. The University of Rochester is now the area's largest employer. Sign language interpreter **Tina Nelson** works at RIT, where she was trained.

■ Bottom row from left: Shelves are fully stocked at Rochester Textbook Exchange. MCC's **Anwar El-Homsi** of Henrietta leads seminars to help businesses develop products more efficiently. Heart surgeon **George Alfieris** is one of the specialists UR has brought to the area.