Founded in 1877 by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), Regis University offers opportunities through education, employment and service to men and women of Colorado and across the globe. Developing cutting-edge educational delivery systems combined with Jesuit tradition and academic excellence has been the cornerstone of growth from a small, private Catholic college into one of the largest private educational institutions in the state of Colorado.

Regis is the only Catholic Jesuit university in Colorado. The main campus is located on 87 acres in North Denver, and has six extension campuses. Regis has a 13:1 student/teacher ratio and awards more than 3,000 degrees annually.

The generosity of alumni, friends, corporations and foundations, as well as federal and state grant monies have helped provide access to higher education in recent years for more than 90 percent of Regis College students through scholarships, work-study and other programs. Sixty-five percent of all undergraduates receive aid.

The University has been named a “Top School in the West” by U.S. News & World Report for 18 consecutive years and is one of only five Colorado institutions and 14 Jesuit universities to produce multiple Rhodes Scholars.

Regis University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. The University was named to the 2008 and 2010 American Council on Education’s President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and also earned the Carnegie Foundation’s 2008 Community Engagement Classification.

For the past 36 consecutive years, Regis University has maintained a balanced budget, has a $160 million operating budget and an endowment valued at $45 million (as of April 2012). A sound financial philosophy has allowed Regis to provide unique and innovative educational programs to its students.

The University is composed of three colleges: Regis College (RC), Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions (RHCHP) and the College for Professional Studies (CPS). Each college is dedicated to delivering quality, values-based education and instilling a commitment of service and ethical leadership in our students as they grow from learners into leaders.

Regis College enrolls approximately 2,100 traditional age (18-22) students and offers 64 undergraduate degrees in a variety of disciplines as well as master’s programs in education and biomedical sciences. The most popular majors are business fields (including administration, economics, and accounting), biology (including environmental science), psychology/neuroscience, history (including politics and political economy) and communications. The University also is home to 12 NCAA Division II sports.

The Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions (RHCHP) enrolls approximately 3,000 students and offers the University’s only doctoral programs – physical therapy, pharmacy and nursing. Since the mid–1990s, the College has offered distance-learning formats. RHCHP includes the largest nursing school in Colorado, serving both pre-licensure student nurses and licensed registered nurses of various educational, professional and socioeconomic backgrounds. In Fall 2011, Regis instituted an online Doctor of Nursing Practice, educating students to meet the healthcare needs of vulnerable, underserved, and diverse populations in both rural and urban settings. RHCHP also offers master’s degrees in Health Services Administration, and Health Informatics and Information Management.

The College for Professional Studies (CPS) was established in 1978 and offers 34 degrees and majors across four schools: Management, Computer & Information Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences and Education & Counseling. CPS enrolled nearly 9,500 students in 2011, offering flexible scheduling, both online and classroom-based formats, at campuses in Broomfield, Colorado Springs, Loveland, Denver Tech Center, Thornton and on the main North Denver campus.
The educational reputation of Regis University is well known. Less understood is the University’s position as an economic force in Denver and the surrounding communities.

This Economic Impact Report further details the many ways Regis University contributes to its community in the following areas:

- Overall Impact
- Economic Stability & Growth
- Community Service
- Diversity in Education
- Meeting Community Needs

Regis University Annually Provides to Colorado:
- $311 million of direct and indirect economic impact
- Direct and indirect employment of 2,600 workers
- 485,400 hours of student community involvement worth $8 million

The spending patterns associated with Regis University have multiple impacts in Colorado. Therefore, multiplier analysis is used to trace the economic benefits on businesses, organizations, and individuals affected by the direct spending as this impact works its way through the economy.

Regis University is the 18th largest employer in the City & County of Denver, with 950 full and part-time employees. Combined with the workforce located on extension campuses, the Regis University workforce numbers 1,440.

During the 2011 - 2012 academic year 14,641 students were enrolled at Regis University. This enrollment figure includes full-time and part-time classroom learners, as well as online students. Converting the students to full-time equivalents, an average of 8,810 full-time equivalent students were enrolled in the University each year over the past five years.

Approximately 50,800 people visit Regis University each year for a variety of events and conferences, including sporting events and camps, alumni weekend and various community gatherings.

The total direct economic benefit of the annual operations of Regis University is $130.3 million. As these dollars circulate through the Colorado economy, the direct and indirect impact of Regis University is estimated at $310.9 million and supports nearly 2,600 workers.
SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The direct benefit to the community from student volunteer work, service learning, clinical work, student teaching and internships is derived from the number of hours worked and the number of participants involved in the events. Also included are the cost savings to the various organizations who do not have to hire additional workers to produce their goods and/or services.

Volunteers hours include 2,860 from student athletes, 8,190 related to Father Woody programs, 5,730 associated with college prep programs founded or initiated by the Porter-Billups Leadership Academy, Daniels Fund and Arrupe Jesuit High School, and 18,950 from the general student population. The annual in-kind value of this community service is approximately $431,000.

The health care and education industries in the state benefit from the clinical and student teaching hours contributed by students earning a degree or license in these fields. Approximately 1,660 students at Regis University complete 354,210 hours of clinical work and student teaching each year, an average of more than 200 hours per student. These services provided nearly $6 million in health-related benefits to the community.

On average 375 students complete 49,500 internship hours each year. The hourly wage for people ages 20 to 24, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, was $11.35 in 2010. This wage rate was applied to the number of hours these students work to estimate the total value of the internships. The value of internships adds $562,000 of benefits to the community each year.

In addition 2,400 students from all three colleges completed 46,000 hours of community service through service learning classes. The Center for Service Learning in Regis College estimated the in-kind value of its students’ service at $153,000. Based on the value of this service, the total benefit of all service learning at Regis University $982,000 each year.

*Regis University named to 2012 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

ECONOMIC STABILITY & GROWTH

During the past three years, construction activity at Regis University has averaged about $1.7 million per year. Looking ahead, planned projects include some $2.8 million in maintenance and remodeling projects in 2012-2013; the $14.5 million renovation of St. Peter Claver, S.J. Hall, occurring between 2011 and 2014; and the $17.3 million construction of David M. Clarke, S.J., Hall from 2011 to 2012.

Construction of Clarke Hall is a good example of projects that occur from time to time, but are not part of the typical annual benefits of Regis University. Construction of Clarke Hall will cost an estimated $17.3 million with an additional $826,000 in furnishings, equipment, IT infrastructure, and art for the building.

Combining the benefits of the general construction activity, soft costs, contingency, construction labor and furnishings and equipment for Clarke Hall, the direct economic benefit in Colorado of the construction will total more than $18 million.

DIVERSITY

At Regis University, the term “diversity” affirms our faith-inspired commitment to build an inclusive community that values the dignity and contribution of all our members. Age, gender, race/ethnicity, class, disability, sexual orientation, religion and other human differences contribute to the richness and vitality of our living and working community.

Regis promotes an ethnically diverse student body through outreach programs targeted to high schools in underserved communities and through scholarships and financial aid. In 2011, Regis invested $25.7 million in grants and scholarships with $17.4 million in scholarships awarded to Colorado residents.

Diversity also includes serving students in a wide range of age groups. The traditional student body median age is around 20. The College for Professional Studies serves adult students with degree completion and advanced degree programs. These courses are available both online and on campus. The Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions offers degree programs to both the traditional-aged college student and the adult professional in a variety of health disciplines.
MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION

Meeting the needs of the community through education is a vital part of the Regis experience. The programs highlighted are examples of this commitment to the community.

Regis University’s Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions (RHCHP) continuously strives to meet the educational and health care needs of Colorado. Several sources have identified a current and looming shortage of nurses, physical therapists and mid-level health care providers in both Colorado and the nation. The Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence reports that 32 percent of the state’s licensed registered nurses are over 55 years of age. Based on a historical retirement age of about 58 years for nurses, Colorado will lose a large percentage of its nursing workforce in the next few years. Already, Colorado’s percentage of nurses falls below the national average.

Regis University partnered with the Caring for Colorado Foundation and the Colorado Permanente Medical Group Fund of St. Joseph’s Hospital Foundation to construct a state-of-the-art health care simulation laboratory and to purchase universal patient simulators. Simulation exercises allow students to gain hands-on experience in a safe setting. Due to shortages in clinical rotation positions within state health care facilities for nursing students, simulation labs and exercises will become increasingly important. The Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions at Regis University offers the “bridge” option for registered nurses to complete both Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing degrees through a single curriculum, allowing students to take required courses for each concurrently. This program is offered in both a classroom-based format and online.

In 2012, The Loretto Heights School of Nursing received full accreditation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. The School of Physical Therapy moved up in rank from the 29th to 27th best physical therapist education program in the country as rated by U.S. News & World Report.

RHCHP is the health care provider for a city-wide outreach program, Project Homeless Connect (PHC). Now in its twelfth year, PHC is the medical home of thousands of Denver’s homeless individuals and families. It is also part of Denver’s Road Home, a program led by the mayor’s office to help the homeless population connect with services that include legal, medical and housing, as well as obtaining identification documents. Regis University’s volunteer services include physical therapy, mental health, diet, foot care, diabetes education and more. Over the past 12 years, it is estimated that PHC has prevented hundreds of emergency room visits, provided annual exams to thousands of people and saved the overtaxed health care system hundreds of thousands of dollars. Estimated savings to the taxpayer and healthcare system vary but are significant when considering the average emergency room visit today exceeds $5,000 (US Department of Health and Human Services).

Another example of meeting the needs of the community through innovative education is the Regis College Master of Arts in Education Program (MAE). Rooted in Jesuit educational traditions, the MAE Program offers licensed teachers a quality program that integrates personal growth and professional application of essential skills. Two areas of specialization in the MAE Program, Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Education and Learning and Teaching,
help prepare teachers to be transformational leaders, particularly by working with highly impacted communities and linguistically diverse student populations.

In addition to a master’s degree, the MAE Program offers a Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Education (CLD) Endorsement, a state-approved licensure program and a Linguistically Diverse Academic Certificate for teaching English learners.

The MAE mission is to actively engage and support 21st Century educators in collaborative, reflective and challenging learning experiences that fully develop their capabilities as highly qualified, caring and committed leaders in the education profession. The program trains teachers to meet the diverse needs of 21st Century learners in order to become workplace and college ready.

MAE partnerships have included Aurora Public Schools, Jeffco Schools, Boettcher Teacher Program, Adams 12 and Cherry Creek School District through PREVAIL Grants, Poudre Valley School District, Boulder Valley School District and Sheridan School District through various Federal grants.

Leadership, faculty, and staff serve on a variety of boards and task forces throughout the state, including HELDE (Higher Education Linguistically Diverse Educators); CoNAME (Colorado Association of Multicultural Educators); CABE (Colorado Association of Bilingual Educators); Learning Forward, a national and state organization promoting and offering professional learning opportunities; and P-20 Education Committee CCIRA (Colorado Council of International Reading Association).

The Regis College undergraduate teacher education program has significant ties to the community with long-standing partnerships, as well. Education graduates enjoy a high job-acquisition rate.

Undergraduate faculty and staff serve on a wide range of state and local education boards including The Colorado Governor’s Farm to School Task Force, Colorado Educator Pipeline Task Force, state Deans of Education (CCODE) and numerous local school boards and committees.

Regis University offers teacher education programs to adult learners through the College of Professional Studies (CPS) designed to prepare students seeking initial career licensure as well as advanced professional development, supporting educators in all stages of their careers. The program delivers nationally accredited and state-approved undergraduate and graduate licensure education programs in Colorado and Wyoming, as well as many non-licensure online programs.

The CPS School of Education & Counseling develops accomplished, humane educators and counselors who seek to transform the landscape of their disciplines with a fresh focus on passionate learning and social justice. The faculty are involved with and have leadership roles in many associations in the Colorado community: Educating Children of Color (ECOC) planning board, Colorado Teacher Education Division of CEC Council for Exceptional Children of Christian Writers Guild, Consortium of Colorado Special Education Teacher Educators (CCSETE), consultant to the Executive Board for the South Metro Health Alliance in Strengths-based organizations, trainer for the Faculty of the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, and Teacher Education Advisory Board at Red Rocks Community College. The Master of Arts in Counseling degree is a 60-credit-hour degree that meets the academic requirements for a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) set forth by the Colorado Licensed Professional Counselor Examiners Board, and is accredited by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP), including approval by the International Registry of Counselor Education Programs (IRCEP), CACREP’s international affiliate.
The Colorado Springs campus partners with the Children’s Literacy Center (CLC), tutoring children reading below grade level. The tutors are volunteers from the MEd teacher licensure program and earn field hours by tutoring a child referred by the CLC. Children who participated in one 12-week session at the Regis site increased their reading achievement by as much as three-quarters of a year. Students who participated in the program for two or three 12-week sessions increased their reading achievement by as much as two years.

The CPS School of Computer & Information Sciences caters to today’s adult learner, offering professionals and those reentering the workforce a clear path to obtaining their bachelor’s degree, master’s degree or certificates in the high-demand fields of computer science, software engineering, information systems, network design and database development.

Graduates of the School of Computer & Information Sciences are consistently recruited to take leadership roles in the public and private sectors. This is due to the School’s unique curricula developed through a comprehensive, energetic and focused commitment to partnerships with business, industry and government. The faculty is involved in technology organizations in Colorado, including the Colorado Technology Association Education Forum and Women in Technology. The University houses a CyberSecurity Education Center at the Denver Tech Center Campus, built to meet the need for a hands-on learning environment and to support the adult students earning their master's degree in information assurance and for first responders at the local, state and federal levels.

In addition to the education programs, the CPS Office of Service Learning assisted over 70 small businesses and nonprofit organizations in the Colorado Front Range area and beyond, providing services such as grant writing, market analysis, finance, community research, social advocacy and business planning (2012).

Source document developed February 2012 by Development Research Partners - Denver, Colorado

About Development Research Partners:
Development Research Partners specializes in economic research and analysis for local and state government and private sector businesses. Founded in 1994, Jefferson County, Colorado-based Development Research Partners combines extensive experience in real estate economics and economic development to provide clients with reliable consulting services in four areas of expertise, consisting of Economic and Demographic Research, Industry and Workforce Studies, Fiscal and Economic Impact Analysis, and Real Estate Economics.

About the Authors:
Patricia L. Silverstein, President: Patricia Silverstein’s expertise is in all aspects of economic research to support state and local economic development missions, including economic data interpretation and forecasting, industry cluster studies, and strategic economic development planning. In addition, she performs in-depth research on issues and proposed developments impacting the region. She has extensive experience in preparing economic and fiscal impact analysis for community development purposes, including studies ranging from the impacts of various tourism events, to the benefits of individual companies and industry groups, to the importance of new real estate development. She has estimated the economic benefits of several higher education institutions, including the Downtown Denver Auraria Campus, Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Ms. Silverstein received a bachelor’s degree in economics from Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln and a master’s degree in economics from the University of Colorado Boulder.

David Hansen, Research Economist: Since joining the company in 2007, David Hansen has focused his research skills on the collection and interpretation of economic data and on economic and fiscal impact analyses. In addition to authoring various economic and fiscal impact studies, he provides training and technical consultation on Development Research Partners’ proprietary economic and fiscal impact model called SiteStats™ and continues to enhance and expand the model’s capabilities. Mr. Hansen earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.