Over the past century, The University of Texas at El Paso has grown from a small mining school of 27 students to a nationally recognized public research university of more than 23,000 students. Over the past 15 years, UTEP has experienced growth in enrollment, annual research expenditures and the number of degrees awarded. Today UTEP leads the nation in many fields in awarding undergraduate degrees to Hispanics. The University’s success stems from a vision that embraces both providing access to excellent educational and research opportunities for residents of the U.S.-Mexico border region, and enhancing the economy and quality of life of the community.

Washington Monthly magazine ranked UTEP #1 in the nation for fostering student social mobility and among the top 10 research universities in the nation for its research and service. Driven by the awareness that extraordinary talent and human potential can be found in every neighborhood, UTEP creates higher education opportunities that nourish individual dreams and aspirations.

UTEP also substantially contributes to the economy and quality of life in the Paso del Norte region. For a century, the University has prepared graduates who have entered the region’s workforce with enhanced skills and leadership abilities that translate into increased lifetime incomes and enriched lives and families. The University employs thousands of the county’s residents and its annual operations generate revenue for hundreds of regional businesses and industries. Residents and visitors alike enjoy UTEP’s athletic, arts and cultural events.

This report on UTEP’s many impacts summarizes data collected by UTEP’s Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning (CIERP); by state and national educational research foundations and organizations; and by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI). The report is available online at: impact.utep.edu.
1. **UTEP SUCCEEDS BY ALL MEASURES**

   **ENROLLMENT**
   - Fall 2002: 17,232
   - Fall 2013: 23,003

   **ANNUAL RESEARCH EXPENDITURES**
   - 2002: $31.1 million
   - 2013: $83.2 million

   **DEGREES AWARDED**
   - 2002: 2,185
   - 2013: 4,371

   Source: CIERP, 2014

2. **UTEP IS MOVING TOWARD TIER ONE**

   **Graph**
   - Annual Doctoral Degrees Awarded
   - Annual Research Expenditures

   **Graph Details**
   - Goal: $100 million
   - 2002: $7.8 million
   - 2013: $83.2 million

   Source: CIERP, 2014
ECONOMIC IMPACT

$1.3 Billion Added to Local Economy Each Year

UTEP is one of El Paso County’s largest businesses, comprising approximately 5.2% of the total economy and making a larger contribution than sectors such as transportation or construction. The University is El Paso’s fifth largest employer and its presence has created an estimated 6,577 additional jobs in the region. In all, UTEP adds $1.3 billion to the county economy each year.

Over the past five years, UTEP has pursued an aggressive capital construction program that produced new research, student service, and athletics facilities. The $300 million in projects injected more than $100 million directly into the El Paso economy, increased business volume, generated work for contractors, supported more than 1,000 jobs, and will continue to advance the region’s economy.

Numerous campus offices and personnel strengthen the regional economy. The Institute for Policy & Economic Development provides economic impact assessments for community industries and briefings to city staff. The Office of Professional and Public Programs partners with the city in providing professional development training to executives and managers. The University hosts conferences, symposia and gatherings at which leaders, policymakers and the media consider new pathways for the future. Faculty members serve on boards and provide strategic short-term and long-term planning for businesses and civic groups in sectors including banking, city management, transportation, law enforcement, security and education.

Student volunteer work also has a direct economic impact. During the 2012-2013 year, students donated 560,581 hours of service worth an estimated $13.1 million. UTEP students and faculty mentor children, assist immigrants, encourage reading, develop leaders, help file taxes, judge science fairs and history competitions, share music with nursing home residents, and promote good nutrition and healthy living.

DECLINING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR UTEP OPERATING EXPENSES, 1985-2013

Source: UTEP Budget Office, 2014
### UTEP’S IMPACT ON THE EL PASO COUNTY ECONOMY

**$1.3 BILLION: TOTAL**

- **Alumni Productivity**: $1.03 Billion
- **Payroll and Operations Spending**: $202 Million
- **Visitor Spending**: $2.5 Million
- **Student Spending**: $33.2 Million

Source: EMSI, 2013

### RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR TAXPAYERS

$1 invested in a UTEP student = $1.60 gained in higher tax receipts and avoided costs

Source: EMSI, 2013
SOCIAL MOBILITY MEANS IMPROVING LIVES

#1 in the Nation for Fostering Student Social Mobility

For two years running, Washington Monthly magazine has ranked UTEP #1 for fostering student social mobility. This means UTEP is most successful at transforming students' economic status and quality of life. A UTEP education opens the door to living the American dream by enabling students to develop their talents and realize their potential. Providing all students with excellent educational opportunities has long been UTEP's special mission. Indeed, the best way to understand the impact of education at UTEP is to observe the transformations in the lives of students who prepare for careers in such fields as science, engineering, health care, public service, business, law, entertainment, arts and education.

UTEP’s success begins with a commitment to affordability. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Education ranked UTEP #1 for having the lowest out-of-pocket cost, or “net price,” per full-time academic year among all research universities. The affordable educational opportunities at UTEP lead to success in the job market. A survey of alumni conducted in 2009 found that 94% of UTEP graduates were working full-time and 82% were employed in the field of their choice.

When considered as a personal investment, a UTEP education yields an outstanding return. UTEP graduates recover all costs of tuition, fees and foregone wages in an average of 9.7 years. Every dollar that a student spends on tuition and foregone wages increases his or her lifetime income by $5.60 ($6.60 for first-generation students), resulting in a tripling of the average income at career midpoint for bachelor’s degree holders and a five-fold return for doctoral degree recipients. UTEP students and their families earn a 15.6% rate of return on their educational investment (17.1% for first-generation students), a rate of return more than double that of other investments.

6 UTEP STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

23,000 STUDENTS

62% of seniors are in first generation of family to graduate

77% HISPANIC

54% FEMALE

69% from ZIP codes with per capita income of less than $19,900 per year

80% grew up in El Paso

60% REMAIN IN THE REGION

20% have parents who did not graduate from high school

49% CARE FOR DEPENDENTS

Source: CIERP, 2014
EDUCATION RAISES INCOME IN EL PASO

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: $36,999

<HIGH SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

ASSOCIATE

BACHELOR’S

MASTER’S

$54,100

$65,200

$83,810

DOCTORATE

UTEP EDUCATION IS A WISE INVESTMENT

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

STOCKS AND BONDS

UTEP DEGREE

0.2% 7.0% 17.1%

Source: EMSI, 2013
IMPACT OF RESEARCH AT UTEP

$83.2 Million in Research Expenditures for 2013

UTEP research improves lives, builds community, and strengthens Texas and the nation. Research expenditures have risen steadily over the past decade, reaching more than $80 million annually and ranking UTEP fourth among public universities in the state. In any given year, approximately $250 million of sponsored research is underway across campus. Every $1 million of externally funded research at UTEP generates an additional $680,000 of economic activity within El Paso County.

UTEP faculty and students are actively engaged in the full spectrum of research in key strategic areas. Recent projects in the health and biomedical sciences aim to combat cancer and Alzheimer’s disease, create vaccines for HIV and Chagas disease, prevent obesity in children, reduce tobacco use, and understand the neurochemistry of drug addiction. In the areas of energy and the environment, UTEP researchers are working to make water desalination more affordable and efficient, test and certify alternative energy projects, document climate change in the Arctic, and stimulate sustainable forests and fisheries. To increase the security of the border and the nation, UTEP researchers conduct projects designed to improve forensic interviewing and battlefield decision-making and to protect against cyber-attacks. Other research ranges from enhancing bilingual education to monitoring earthquakes to preserving works of art by Georgia O’Keeffe. The University has recently announced new initiatives to improve the safety of human space flight, increase the ability of the desert Southwest to better manage water resources, and promote physical activity and nutrition.

UTEP’s success in attracting external funding for research provides students with real-world learning opportunities. On-campus jobs in research laboratories not only expand student earning power but also promote deeper learning, improve retention and graduation, reduce time to degree, increase first-generation student confidence and motivation to pursue graduate study, and improve job placement and career success.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

CROSS-CUTTING RESEARCH THEMES

- Cyberinfrastructure and Collaborative Environments
- U.S.-Mexico and Latin America: Social and Behavioral Dimensions
- Emerging Technologies: Information Technology, Biotechnology and Nanotechnology

Source: UTEP Strategic Plan for Research, 2010
ANNUAL RESEARCH EXPENDITURES, 2000-2013

IN MILLIONS

Source: UTEP Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, 2014

INVENTIONS DISCLOSED BY UTEP RESEARCHERS, 2001-2013

Source: UTEP Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, 2014
The University of Texas at El Paso has profoundly shaped El Paso over the last century through its visionary approach, its effective education and research, and its impact on the region’s economy and quality of life. Founded as a mining school, UTEP has grown into a large public research university serving an urban, multi-ethnic, bi-national community – the largest metroplex on the U.S.-Mexico border.

UTEP offers a wide variety of cultural, arts, sports and entertainment programs that draw nearly 500,000 visitors to the University campus each year.

UTEP athletic teams compete in 12 NCAA Division I sports that host hundreds of games and events on campus. The Don Haskins Center, home of the men’s and women’s basketball teams, ranks among the top 200 venues internationally for ticket sales. Sun Bowl Stadium hosts the Miner football team, concerts and special events, and the annual Sun Bowl holiday classic football matchup.

UTEP’s theaters, stages and galleries host nearly 100 concerts, recitals and exhibitions each year, and Miner faculty and alumni perform in the region’s opera, symphony and other musical ensembles and exhibit their work in local, national and international venues. The Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens is El Paso’s natural and cultural history museum and the UTEP Dinner Theatre has been wowing audiences for three decades. The Communication Department hosts the region’s public radio station, KTEP-FM (88.5).

The Office of Professional and Public Programs provides a variety of professional training and skills development. Its clients include business, professional and government entities, as well as students, alumni and other lifelong learners. Community enrichment programs for adults and youth promote individual success, creative expression and skills development.

UTEP’s programs and practices also promote good stewardship of the region’s environment. New construction projects meet the highest LEED standards, and the University’s green technology saves an estimated $1.2 million in water resources each year. A growing number of solar panels on campus buildings contribute to the region’s environmental sustainability. The Chihuahuan Desert gardens and the new Centennial Plaza conserve water and preserve the region’s native flora and fauna.
“We rate schools based on what they are doing for the country — on whether they’re improving social mobility, producing research, and promoting public service … The University of Texas – El Paso [leaves] several members of the Ivy League in the dust.”

~ Paul Glastris, Editor, Washington Monthly

“UTEP’s long history and close connections with the community make it El Paso’s university. The educational part of our growth is very important to our community.”

~ El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser