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Provide Resource Support for R1 Initiatives Working Group

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Executive Summary

This report examined several metrics at the University of Nevada, Reno, Montana State University, Bozeman (Montana State), University of Southern Mississippi, University of New Hampshire, Main Campus (University of New Hampshire), and Binghamton University before (generally 2015-2018) and after (generally 2019-2022) they became R1 institutions in order to determine the impacts of becoming an R1 university. Each of these institutions ach

and University of New Hampshire are not only similar institutions to UAF but the local economies in which they reside are similar to Fairbanks. As such, the operations of these institutions are more likely to impact the economic activity of their respective regions.

Based on job and GDP growth, the local economies of the University of Southern Mississippi and University of New Hampshire outperformed the Fairbanks economy since the institutions reached R1 status. Given the various aspects of these two universities' operations that grew after becoming R1 (e.g. enrollment and research expenditure growth) and the fact that the local economies outperformed Fairbanks, it is reasonable to conclude that achieving R1 status may have had some positive impact.

Based on the experienced changes in the local areas of the University of Southern Mississippi and University of New Hampshire, when UAF reaches R1 status, it is possible that it may create between 815 and 1,060 jobs and add between $54.8 million and $148.9 million to the Fairbanks economy.

Disclaimer

No university is exactly the same and no local economic area is exactly the same so any comparisons or projections are assumptions. It should also be noted that a global pandemic occurred beginning in 2020 that dramatically affected colleges and universities. Therefore, it is difficult to make before and after R1 conclusions as the impacts of the pandemic were dramatic.

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Total Enrollment[1]

The following table shows changes in total enrollment before and after the examined universities reached R1 status. In this analysis, "before" uses data from 2015-2018, while "after" uses data from 2019-2022. The table also shows the average of the changes that occurred at the examined R1 universities. UAF's changes in total enrollment for those same periods are included for comparison purposes.

2015-2018 Total Enrollment % Changes	2019-2022 Total Enrollment % Changes
University of Nevada, Reno: +2.6%	University of Nevada, Reno: -0.2%
Montana State University: +10.4%	Montana State University: -0.1%
University of Southern Mississippi: -0.3%	University of Southern Mississippi: -4.3%
University of New Hampshire: -0.3%	University of New Hampshire: -5.6%
Binghamton University: +5.1%	Binghamton University: +1%
Average Change of R	*Average Change of R*
UAF	*UAF*

Beginning in 2019, if UAF experienced the average change in total enrollment of the five R1 universities examined, UAF's total enrollment in 2022 would have increased from 6,607 to 7,047 or 6.7% higher

Beginning in 2019, if UAF experienced the enrollment changes of Montana State, UAF's total enrollment in 2022 would have increased from 6,607 to 7,172 or 8.5% higher

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, national total enrollment at public universities declined by 7% from 2019-2022. All five R1 universities examined outperformed the national average. In addition, from 2019-2022, the examined R1 universities all outperformed the total enrollment declines at public universities in their respective states, providing further evidence that being an R1 university could be a key factor contributing to higher than average enrollment trends. Below are the state-wide enrollment trends for public universities for the 2019-2022 time period for comparison purposes:

Nevada: -5.8% in public university total enrollment

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[1] See definitions on page 6.

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Nevada: +5.4% in public university employment of graduate assistants
Montana: +5.4% in public university employment of graduate assistants
Mississippi: 0% in public university employment of graduate assistants
New Hampshire: -3.4%% in public university employment of graduate assistants
New York: -4.2% in public university employment of graduate assistants
Alaska: -2.2% in public university employment of graduate assistants

Of note, UAF's employment of graduate assistants outperformed the State of Alaska average.

Given that employment of graduate assistants were higher at four of the five of the R1 universities relative to the national and state averages, it is reasonable to conclude that becoming an R1 may have positively influenced graduate assistants employment levels, among other factors.
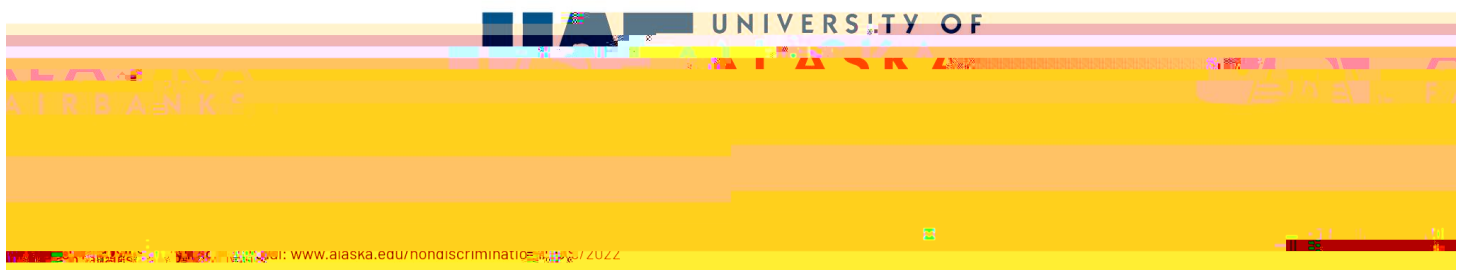
PhD Completions

In addition, from 2019-2022, two of the five R1 univer

Total Research Expenditures

The following table shows changes in t

Considering UAF's already high research expenditures and the potential advantages of achieving R1 status, the following are different scenarios regarding total research growth that could be realized when UAF reaches R1 status:

- Beginning in 2022 ($202.5 million), if UAF was able to keep its current growth rate, UAF's total research expenditures in 2025 would increase to $284 million

- Beginning in 2022 ($202.5 million), if UAF experienced the growth rate in research expenditures of the five R1 universities examined, UAF's total research expenditures in 2025 would increase to $246.3 million

- Beginning in 2022 ($202.5 million), if UAF experienced the growth rate in research expenditures of Montana State, UAF's total research expenditures in 2025 would increase to $262.7 million

According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), in 2022 is $

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Beginning in 2022 ($154.7 million), if UAF was able to keep its current growth rate, UAF's federal research expenditures in 2025 would increase to $257.6 million.

Beginning in 2022 ($154.7 million), if UAF experienced the growth rate in federal research expenditures of the five R1 universities examined, UAF's federal research expenditures in 2025 would to $190.8 million

Beginning in 2022 ($154.7 million), if UAF experienced the growth rate in research expenditures of Montana State, UAF's federal research expenditures in 2025 would increase to $206.9 million
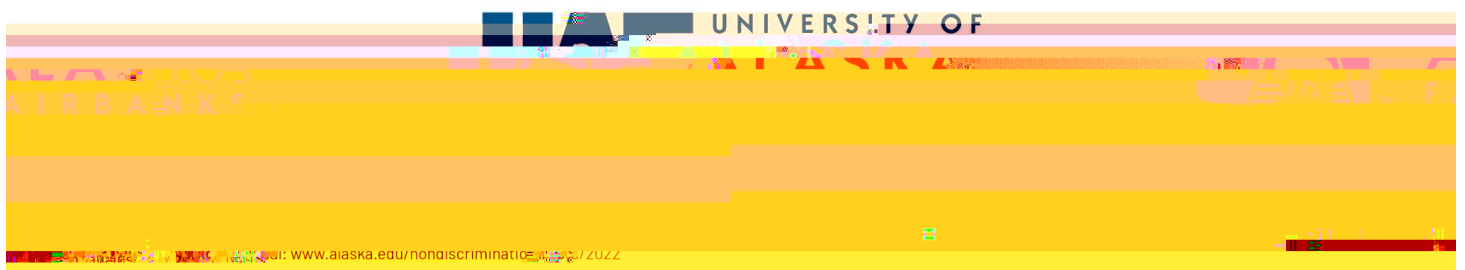
Research Staff

The following table shows the change in employme

Nevada: -1.3% in public university research staff employment
Montana: -1.3% in public university research staff employment
Mississippi: -5.7% in public university research staff employment
New Hampshire: +9.2% in public university research staff

Private Employment (Jobs)

The following table shows the changes in private sector employm

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The following table shows the changes in real GDP (chained 2012 dollars) in the counties that the examined universities reside before and after the universities reached R1 status. In this analysis, "before" uses data from 2016-2018, while "after" uses data from 2019-2021. Data for 2022 was not available at the time of publication of this report. UAF/Fairbanks are included for comparison purposes. As described below, averages among the R1 universities are not shown due to the significant size difference in the overall real GDP in the counties that the R1 universities reside, therefore making comparisons less reliable.

2016-2018 GDP % Changes	2019-2021 GDP % Changes
Washoe County (U. of Nevada, Reno): +1.2%	Washoe County (U. of Nevada, Reno): +6.9%
Gallatin County (Montana State): +11%	Gallatin County (Montana State): +15.3%
Forrest County (U. Southern Mississippi): -0.3%	Forrest County (U. Southern Mississippi): +2.3%
Strafford County (U. New Hampshire): +2.1%	Strafford County (U. New Hampshire): +4.1%
Broome County (Binghamton U.): +1.6%	Broome County (Binghamton U.): +0.8%
Fai ba ᕓ *UAF*	*Fai ba* ᕓ *UAF*

Real GDP for Washoe County (U. of Nevada, Reno) is approximately $20 billion larger than Fairbanks. Broome County (Binghamton U.) real GDP is more than $3.1 billion larger than Fairbanks. It would not be appropriate to make direct comparisons or assumptions given the vast disparity in real GDP. However, Gallatin ($6.5 billion; Montana State), Forrest ($3.2 billion; U. Southern Mississippi), and Strafford ($5.7 billion; U. New

outperformed UAF in most metrics excluding research expenditures and their operations could be one factor as to why their local economies performed better than Fairbanks.

Beginning in 2019, if Fairbanks experienced real GDP growth of Gallatin Count (be
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Conclusion

This report analyzed metrics from several universities before and after they achieved R1 status to assess the potential impacts of reaching R1 classification for UAF. The examined universities, including the University of Nevada, Reno, Montana State University, Bozemœt