Economic Impact

Keene State College is a student focused, engaged public liberal arts college that is supported by a highly talented faculty, a dedicated staff and a community whose vitality is interdependent on the success of the college. As you see on the slide before you Keene State College has a significant material impact on the City of Keene, the Monadnock Region and the State of New Hampshire that totals more than $350 million dollars a year.

Importantly, the economic impact of Keene State College is also reflected in the preparation of tomorrow’s workforce. We offer an education that sits at the intersection of liberal arts and professional preparation to a broad cross section of students many of whom are in the first generation of their families to attend college. The relevance and significance of the learning foundation in the arts and sciences cannot be overstated. 4 out of 5 employers agree that all students should acquire broad knowledge in the liberal arts. 93% of employers agree that a future employee’s capacity to think critically, communicate clearly and solve complex problems is more important than their undergraduate degree.
Keene State College has and continues to partner with the business and industry community to ensure that our curriculum is preparing students for the workplace of tomorrow, a workplace that is likely to thrive with employees who are flexible, collaborative, empowered, and agile in an increasingly diverse and globally interdependent world. Studies predict that tomorrow’s college graduate will have 5 to 7 different careers. As New Hampshire’s public liberal arts college we are uniquely positioned to prepare students for a lifetime of professional fulfillment and career opportunities that rely on innovation and transformation.

More than 50% of Keene State College graduates live and work in New Hampshire. Our students contribute $1.4 million dollars in service predominately in the non-profit sector and are vital partners in the social services provided by this sector for the betterment of the lives of our regions citizens.

**STEM Programs**

Like the other University System institutions we are meeting our commitment to increase graduates from STEM disciplines, a vital pipeline for New Hampshire’s future. We have responded affirmatively and aggressively with new programs and increased capacity. One example of which on the slide before you is our BEST program which emphasizes innovative teaching, academic support and undergraduate research. Importantly, a significant component of this program is outreach to talented students in our community college system to complete a four-year degree.

Our STEM efforts include a commitment to prepare more teachers in the STEM disciplines and to meet the need for more nurses with four-year degrees by creating a nursing program that emphasizes skill preparation in a new state of the art laboratory that allows practice in real life simulations.

Bringing theory to practice is a hallmark of a Keene State College education and part of our STEM commitment includes partnership with businesses such as Hitchner Manufacturing, Whalen, Dyn, Timkin
Corporation and Markem-Image to name a few. Many of the students who intern in these companies become the next generation work-force for them.

**Sustainability**

Building a sustainable future has been a long standing commitment of Keene State College. Our academic departments have a long and robust history of outreach to address important local and regional issues that impact the environment. This slide highlights some of better known and recent projects. Others include our award winning outdoor courtyard to the Putnam Science Center providing a living classroom filled with plants native to the region and walkway depicting the area’s geologic history. We constructed a co-generation heat plant that saved $120 thousand dollars annually in energy savings and reduces green house gases each year by 500 metric tons along with a turbine that generates up to 12% of the campus’s electricity.

We are very proud to have earned LEED Platinum certificate for our Technology Design and Safety Studies Building, the first in the USNH system. This building serves as a model for integrated learning, hands on education and delivers on Keene State College’s commitment to sustainability.