UALBANY – COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:
An Overview of Community Engagement Strengths

Introduction

In hundreds of ways, UAlbany faculty, students, and staff are helping to benefit people and communities of the Capital Region, New York State, the nation, and the world. The purpose of this overview is to provide a snapshot of UAlbany’s extensive engagement with communities of varied types and place, from local to global.

A work in progress, this draft document\(^1\) was prepared to give the Steering Committee on Community Engagement background on areas of distinctive strength in community engagement as well as the nature and scope of faculty and student activities. Information is from the extensive inventory of community engagement programs and activities on the UAlbany-Community Connections website http://www.albany.edu/outreach/inventory.html.\(^2\)

The overview below is organized by ten key subjects: • The Arts and Humanities • Diversity and Global Awareness • Economic and Business Development • Education • Energy and the Environment • Families and Communities • Government and Governance • Health and Health Care • Information and Information Technologies • Sports.

Each section has a short introduction, followed by headings: “Students in the Community” and “Key Research, Programs and Partnerships.”

The Arts and Humanities

UAlbany is a vibrant center of learning for the arts and humanities as well as a major presenter of the visual and performing arts. UAlbany has long played a role in developing the Capital Region and New York State as a cultural and creative crossroads. Further, University faculty and students are engaged globally in projects such as archaeological excavations and research.

Students in the Community

Students in many disciplines from English to the arts to history and public history are interns and volunteers at not-for-profit groups throughout the Capital Region. They assist museums and historic sites, arts and cultural organizations, and more.

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\(^1\) The document was prepared by Miriam Trementozzi, Associate Vice President for Community Engagement, President's Office, with the assistance of the Lynn Videka, Vice President for Research, Sarah Imboden, Graduate Assistant, and Steering Committee members.

\(^2\) This web inventory is being updated in two phases, with the first stage completed October 2008. In the second phase the inventory will be converted to a database searchable by key words with content managed and refreshed at the unit-level as desired.
Key Programs and Partnerships

- The **New York State Writers Institute**, one of America's premiere sites for promoting the art of the written word, is located at the University and has made Albany a literary crossroads. Founded in 1983 by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist William Kennedy as the Writers Institute, the center received a state mandate a year later to provide "a milieu for established and aspiring writers to work together...to increase the freedom of the artistic imagination." The central aim of the Institute is to enhance and celebrate literature, writing and performance and to recognize the position of writers as a community within the larger community. Programs include author visits, film screenings, symposia, and a host of other activities, engaging audiences regionally and far beyond.

- The **University at Albany Art Museum** has presented exhibitions since 1967 reflecting the depth and diversity of artistic achievement in contemporary visual art. The museum promotes understanding of contemporary art and culture through its publications and public programs, including tours, lectures, and performances. It also provides a forum for art, artists, and audiences, enriching the intellectual life of the campus and community. Over 13,000 people annually attend exhibitions and events.

- Several major archaeological and anthropological projects are conducted by faculty and students including, for example, the Archeology Field School (Schoharie, NY), Institute for Cypriot Studies, Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, and Viminacium Field School (Serbia).

- The **Department of Music** offers many concerts by its ensembles, faculty, students, and guest artists each semester. Concerts are held as often as four to seven times a month depending on the season. The Department's series also includes collaborative programs with other groups. Opportunities are available to community members to participate in various performance ensembles.

- The **Theatre Department** offers 4-5 major productions each season directed by the faculty. Several experimental theater productions under student direction are also offered each year. Auditions for productions are open to the general public.

- The **Performing Arts Center** hosts professional touring artists each season, drawn from a wide variety of performing arts. Ticket sales are open to the general public.

- Other important programs and resources include:
  - Center for Jewish Studies – College of Arts and Sciences
  - Researching New York Conference - History Department
  - Talking History weekly radio program – History Department
  - Theme Semesters (e.g., China, Albany’s Heritage) – University wide

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**Diversity and Global Awareness**

UAbern faculty, students and staff work to foster understanding of human, social and cultural diversity both at home and abroad as well as to improve the lives of diverse populations. For example, research and special projects help address the needs of particular groups whether women, people of color, the elderly, immigrants or others. To help students flourish as citizens and leaders in a global society, UAbern seeks to sustain and enrich its
international dimension through Study Abroad and Student Exchange programs as well as support services to international students who come here.

**Students in the Community**

UAAlbany students from many fields of study and backgrounds work as interns and community service volunteers in organizations that serve the needs of diverse populations. They also are part of groups on campus that perform community outreach as part of their activities.

**Key Research, Programs, and Partnerships**

- **The Office of International Education (OIE)** sponsors over 70 Study Abroad programs in 35 countries and facilitates participation in over 300 programs worldwide through the SUNY Study Abroad Consortium. OIE assists UAlbany's international students – over 1,250 from about 95 different countries. OIE also coordinates UAlbany's strategies for internationalization, which include: increasing the international content of educational programs; developing a wider range of international research projects and partnerships; and, focusing attention on major global issues.

- The **Department of Africana Studies** works to engender an appreciation of diversity and emphasize the ways in which Africans and people of African descent in the Americas have constructed and interpreted their own lives and cultures.

- The **Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities** addresses inequities among minorities in health access and outcomes in the smaller cities and towns of New York including Albany. See Health and Health Care.

- The **Center for Jewish Studies, College of Arts and Sciences**, extends the reach of Jewish studies at UAlbany and the SUNY system through new educational initiatives, innovative community-wide programming, scholarly endeavors, and distance learning.

- The goals of the **Center for Latino, Latin American, and Caribbean Studies (CELAC)** include promoting research and encouraging both greater communication and cooperation among the Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. communities as well as a greater understanding and appreciation of Latino multicultural diversity in U.S. society. The New York Latino Research and Resources Network (NYLARNet), a CELAC-affiliated project, addresses public policy issues related to the NY and Northeast Latino population.

- **The Center for Women in Government & Civil Society**, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, works to advance equity, access, diversity and women's leadership development. The group's Advisory Committee on Minority Women's Issues helps inform its work. Programs include a fellowship on women and public policy; reports on key trends; an initiative to strengthen the voices of immigrant women in the state’s public policy arena; and training, fellowship and research projects with state agencies.

- **Center for Critical Demography and Public Sociology**, Department of Sociology, serves as a community and statewide resource on demographic issues that impact public and social policy in New York State and abroad.

- The **Office of Undergraduate Admissions** implements many recruitment strategies to assure success in enrolling a diverse body of students at UAlbany, including the development of extensive community relationships. With over 27 percent of the
freshmen class entering the University in fall 2008 from diverse backgrounds, the University’s successful efforts remain a model for its peers.

- Many UAlbany units help youth from diverse backgrounds succeed and pursue higher education or a career. See also Education and Families and Communities.

- Other key programs include:
  - Aging Friendly Communities – School of Social Welfare (SSW)
  - International Film Festival – Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
  - Office of Multicultural Student Success – Division of Student Success
  - The New York State Writers Institute
  - The Shepherd Project - Office of Graduate Studies
  - Study Mission to South Africa – SSW
  - Various faculty/staff/student organizations with community service projects

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**Economic and Business Development**

Through extensive partnerships with state and industry leaders, the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering is working to build a globally competitive economy in Tech Valley and New York State through nanotechnology innovations. Further, emerging strength in research and development in biomedicine and biotechnology is being advanced by the Center for Functional Genomics and its partners. The region’s businesses are gaining in economic competitiveness and diversity through School of Business programs while work in the school, CNSE, and Department of Economics informs economic policy in the public and private sectors.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Key Research, Programs and Partnerships**

- The College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) is a global leader in nanotechnology, offering pioneering education, cutting-edge research, unparalleled resources, and a unique business model. In 2007, International SEMATECH, the global consortium of leading nanoelectronics manufacturers, announced it would locate its headquarters at CNSE. Also in 2007, CNSE was ranked as the No. 1 college in the world for nanotechnology and microtechnology by Small Times magazine. Through corporate and governmental investments, CNSE has built the most advanced research facility of its kind at any university in the world: a $4.2 billion, 450,000-square-foot complex that attracts corporate partners from around the world and offers students a one-of-a-kind academic experience. CNSE is transforming and revitalizing the economy of upstate New York. CNSE accelerates the commercialization of technologies by providing technology deployment, market development, and economic outreach business assistance under a variety of centers and programs.

- The Center for Functional Genomics is a major anchor for UAlbany’s East Campus which focuses on biotechnology and biomedical research in collaboration with government and private sector partners. The CFG provides an intellectual environment, coupled with state-of-the-art core laboratories, to advance the fundamental understanding of the function of gene products while promoting the integration of research projects between investigators and entrepreneurial biotechnology companies. The Center co-locates university research faculty, state research agencies, academic programs and private companies in the same facilities to advance such exchange.
• The **Office of Technology Development** works with campus faculty, staff, and students to identify, protect, and license intellectual property (such as inventions and original works of authorship) that has potential for commercial application or broader use outside the university. OTD is particularly interested in working with companies that can develop new technology emerging from UAlbany research to grow their businesses in New York.

• **Technology Transfer Society Conference** is an annual event connecting academics and practitioners, the private and public sectors and a variety of disciplines. It was hosted in 2008 by the School of Business and the CNSE.

• The **Econometric Research Institute’s** two major projects equip business and other leaders with important information. One is the development of a transportation index to be used as a leading economic indicator. The second involves conducting two economic surveys to monitor the state’s economy: a quarterly Blue Chip type survey of economic experts, and a bi-annual establishment survey. Many undergraduate and graduate students assist with the research of these projects on a regular basis.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**Students in the Community**

Students from many units are a major resource for the region and state’s businesses as well as non-profits and public agencies. They help them improve business practices and address business problems. For example:

• **School of Business**: Teams of graduate students, under faculty supervision, conduct field projects for local clients in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. The students receive credit and their clients valuable services such as the design and implementation of human resource management and information technology systems and assistance with performance measurement, evaluation, and strategic planning. The school’s internship program is very active in assisting local firms and non-profit groups as well.

**Key Research, Programs and Partnerships**

• The **Small Business Development Center, UAlbany** located in the School of Business offers no-cost, one-to-one counseling, assisting start-up and existing businesses in developing strategic business plans, identifying appropriate sources of funding, providing market research, management information and financial analysis. Since inception, the center has provided business assistance to 17,000 entrepreneurs. These efforts helped access over $211.0 million in local economic investment, and almost 8,300 jobs were saved or created.

• UAlbany is administering for SUNY the **New York State Small Business Development Center** with its 24 regional service centers.

• The **School of Business Advisory Council** consults corporate leaders on a variety of issues related to the School and academic programs. The Council also helps improve the visibility and enhance the reputation of both the school and university in the region’s business community.

• The **Program in Financial Market Regulation** is a cooperative project of the financial services industry, regulatory organizations, major law firms, the University at Albany and Albany Law School focused on educating students and conducting research in financial market regulation. UAlbany’s partners include the School of Business, the
Education

Dating to its origins in 1884 as a normal school to prepare teachers, UAlbany is a national leader in the field of education with the School of Education playing the major role. Strengths range from educational policy to practice to professional development. Additionally, many other units at UAlbany are very engaged in educational issues and initiatives including the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Social Welfare. Numerous activities and partnerships help strengthen area schools and organizations through engaged research, teaching, and, in some cases, direct services.

Students in the Community

The University’s large cadre of students in education and related areas is a major resource for the region. For example:

- Doctoral and Master’s degree candidates assist area schools and agencies with counseling, school psychology, and special education.

- Some 700 students pursuing an Education minor take a community-service course, and thirty-six courses at the graduate level require community service.

- Students fulfill the practicum component of the Master’s degree in literacy at Arbor Hill Elementary School and Harriet Gibbons High School to help better serve the needs of Albany schools.

Key Research, Programs, and Partnerships

- **School of Education (SOE):** Working closely with area public schools, the SOE prepares elementary and secondary teachers and a wide array of educational specialists (e.g., literacy teachers, special educators, school psychologists, principals.)

- The **School of Education** collaborates to address a range of needs in the Capital Region from programs for students with barriers to education to professional development. The School’s outreach arm, the Capital Area School Development Association, provides services to 120 school districts in a true cooperative arrangement with shared responsibilities. Additionally, SOE’s national leadership in research on vital issues helps provide solutions for today’s challenges from the regional to international levels. Other major research programs and initiatives include:
  - Child Research and Study Center
  - Comparative and International Education Policy Program
  - Just for Kids – SOE with others
  - National Study of Writing Instruction
  - Partnership for Literacy – CELA, SOE

- The **University in the High School Program**, College of Arts and Sciences, provides students with the academic challenges of college-level curriculum during their final year(s) of high school. In a full-scale partnership, high school teachers become adjunct UAlbany faculty members, giving courses in their high schools for University credit under UAlbany standards and with faculty feedback.
• The **Science Research in the High School Program**, College of Arts and Sciences, is a true collaboration with teachers and students to increase teenagers' interest in science research and prepare them for science careers. The program is in about 110 schools in New York and 6 states.

• Many units of the university are committed to strengthening K-12 education, and several programs particularly focus on schools in the region. Examples:

  **General programs**
  - Academic Talent Search -- Office of Academic Support Services (OASS)
  - Afterschool Program for At-Risk Children -- School of Education (SOE)
  - Arbor Hill School Literacy Lab -- SOE
  - Full Service Schools and Family Support and Youth Development -- SSW
  - Liberty Partnership Rising Stars Program -- Rockefeller College
  - Middle Earth in the Schools -- Division of Student Success
  - NYGEAR UP -- School of Education with City of Albany School District
  - Project SHAPE: Sexual Health and Peer Education -- Division of Student Success
  - UAlbany -- Albany High School Alliance for Young Talent -- President’s Office, SOE, School of Social Welfare, Admissions, OASS, City of Albany School District.

  **Programs in science, technology, engineering, math**
  - Center for Achievement, Retention and Student Success, Family Summer Camp -- Department of Biological Sciences
  - Center for Urban Youth and Technology -- School of Education (SOE)
  - Center for Functional Genomics
  - College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering K-12 Education Outreach including Nanohigh and NanoCareer Day
  - Science and Technology Entry Program -- Office of Academic Support Services
  - WAMC Science Forum Radio Show -- Department of Biological Sciences

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**Energy and the Environment**

The University is at the forefront of developing the knowledge and solutions for advancing environmental sustainability in New York State and the world.

**Students in the Community**

Interns in several fields such as nanoscale sciences and engineering, atmospheric sciences, biodiversity, environmental health sciences, and GIS work in state and local agencies on many aspects of the environment and issues of sustainability.

**Key Research, Programs, and Partnerships**

• The **Atmospheric Sciences Research Center** performs world-class research to study the physical and chemical nature of the atmosphere and to apply that knowledge to study the interaction of various processes that have an impact on our environment. The Center's work thus enhances the state and nation's scientific capacity and infrastructure. Through technology transfer and collaboration with state, federal and industrial partners, ASRC also helps advance citizens' well being. A major project, focused on the East Asia summer monsoon and the Northeastern winter climate, will increase the reliability of general circulation models in predicting future regional climate changes over the U.S. in a global warming situation.
The College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering established The Energy and Environmental Technology Applications Center (E2TAC) as an active expansion of CNSE to work with companies in the rapidly emerging energy and environmental industries. E2TAC is also at the forefront in business acceleration, education and outreach activities in the increasingly important areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency. E2TAC leads a variety of consortia, public forums and topical initiatives on energy-related subjects including NY + Energy formed to promote New York's energy industry.

The National Institute for Sustainable Energy is a partnership between the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and Einhorn Yaffee Prescott (EYP) Architecture and Engineering. Through this Institute, personnel from EYP and E2TAC will collaborate to convert zero energy concepts and innovations into actual business opportunities and revenue-generating initiatives in established markets. In addition, programs in education, workforce training and development, and public policy will be established, and the two organizations will work jointly in development of an Alternate Energy Test Farm at the Albany Nanotech Complex.

Research in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences has an emphasis on weather forecasting and the measurement and prediction of extreme weather events. One project is exploring the land-ocean climate interactions of West Africa, with the long-term goal of improving climate prediction for West Africa.

The Environmental Sustainability Task Force was formed in 2005 to provide leadership in demonstrating UAlbany's responsibility for environmental stewardship. Initiatives include: energy conservation campaigns, recycling contests and farmer's markets. The Task Force will undertake a comprehensive assessment of our greenhouse-gas emissions and develop a carbon-neutral action plan.

Other important programs and partnerships:

- Research collaboration with the National Weather Service – Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- Environmental Monitoring – Department of Geography and Planning
- Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy Program – Department of Biological Sciences

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Families and Communities

UAlbany is improving the lives and communities of residents of the region, state and beyond through extensive collaborations in research and special programs. For example, faculty initiatives address autism, engage retirees in the community, forge school-community–family partnerships, provide psychological counseling, develop aging-friendly communities, evaluate social services, develop plans for neighborhoods and communities, and do much more to address public needs. UAlbany students are critical to improving community well-being, serving as interns and volunteers in area agencies and groups. The School of Social Welfare plays a leading role as well as the schools of education and criminal justice, the departments of Athletics, Psychology, Sociology and Geography and Planning, and the Division for Student Success.
Students in the Community

UAAlbany students from many fields ranging from social welfare to counseling to planning assist state and local agencies through internships, clinical training or field placements. Some provide direct services. For example:

- **Psychological Services Center**, Department of Psychology and the School of Education: Through this doctoral training program and research clinic, students counsel clients who seek help coping with their problems. Services are provided to the region's residents at a low-cost fee, providing an estimated 3,500 hours of services per year to about 300 clients annually.

- **School of Social Welfare (SSW)**: Interns in various programs provide an estimated $3-5 million in in-kind services to varied agencies.

- **Department of Athletics**: All of UAAlbany's 450 student-athletes give back to the community through service. Many teams have their own projects but all student-athletes participate in community service through the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. In 2007-08, student-athletes donated approximately 1,700 hours towards activities ranging from helping in soup kitchens to fund-raising walks.

- **Capitalize on Community**, Department of Sociology, School of Public Health, and the School of Social Welfare: Some 200 students enroll each semester to help the "CoC" improve HIV prevention in the black community in Albany and the Latino community of Amsterdam, New York.

- **Community and Public Service Program**, administered by the SSW for UAAlbany: The program places over 400 students a year in varied community groups and agencies. Students perform 60 or 100 hours of service learning for 2 or 3 credits. New initiatives focus on sustainable partnerships, facilitating community technical assistance and research needs with faculty and student expertise across disciplines.

- **Committee on University and Community Relations**, UAAlbany Police Department, Division of Student Success: A joint Albany City - University initiative led by UAAlbany, the group involves all key stakeholders and works to: foster good relations between off-campus college students and their neighbors, improve safety, develop alcohol and other drug prevention and education programs, and improve quality of life.

Key Research, Programs, and Partnerships

- **The School of Social Welfare (SSW)** serves as a partner and change agent, making a positive impact on communities through the many professional social workers it prepares and through its leadership initiatives to support vulnerable populations. SSW is very engaged in policy issues and practice in such areas as aging, mental health, addictions and family welfare. Examples include the Healthy Hearts on the Hill and Healthy Choices New York initiatives which are addressing health promotion and quality of life of the growing aging population and building community-based collaborative relationships necessary to assist. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program engages an average of 800 retirees in intergenerational mentoring, tutoring and other programs and the OASIS program for mature adults offers educational programs for over 2,000 local residents. Other major programs and initiatives include:
  - Family Support and Youth Development programs
  - Research and Practice Improvement Collaboration
  - Center for Human Services Research
• The School of Criminal Justice works collaboratively with many groups and agencies on studies to help address community needs related to policing, delinquency, domestic violence and other areas.

• The School of Education collaborates with many local, national, and international agencies and communities to inform policy and workplace activities, including counseling programs, educational systems, and K-12 school settings.

• The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, Department of Psychology, brings research and practice together in community settings. The Center provides evidence-based training and support to families and professionals as well as conducts on-going research advancing knowledge in the field.

• The Graduate Planning Studio, Department of Geography and Planning, helps one or two communities and organizations a year with preparing plans to address such needs as land use planning, open space conservation, neighborhood and main street revitalization.

• The University Counseling Center, and peer assistance programs sponsored by it, extend valuable expertise and time to many community groups in several critical areas such as alcohol and drug abuse prevention, support for people with eating disorders, education on sexuality and sexual health.

• Examples of other key efforts include:
  • Addictions Center - SSW and College of Arts and Sciences
  • Aging Friendly Communities initiatives - SSW
  • Center for Urban Youth and Technology - School of Education (SOE)
  • Counseling Internships Program - SOE
  • Domestic Violence Projects - SCJ
  • Institute of Gerontology - SSW
  • Center for Critical Demography and Public Sociology - Dept. of Sociology (DOS)
  • Center for Excellence in Aging Services - SSW
  • Center for Innovations in Mental Health - SSW
  • Center for Social and Demographic Analysis (CSDA)
  • Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research - DOS
  • Projects with Albany Police Department - School of Criminal Justice (SCJ)
  • Social Work Education Consortium - SSW
  • Rochester Youth Development Study - SCJ
  • Saint Anne Institute and the LaSalle School - SJC
  • Social Work Student Exchange, Hallym University, South Korea - School of Social Welfare (SSW)

Government and Governance

Through its strategic location in the Capital of New York State, the University plays a significant role in working to strengthen all aspects of government and governance from the local to global levels. UAlbany faculty and students from Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy as well as the schools of criminal justice, education, public health, social welfare and other units collaborate with agencies and policy makers to improve policy and build high-performance government in a wide spectrum of fields.
Students in the Community

A major asset to state and local government agencies and non-profit groups is the large cadre of UAAlbany undergraduate and graduate students in public policy and administration, political science, criminal justice, public health, social welfare, education, business, economics, computing, and other areas. Students assist with many critical functions from policy analysis to information technology services.

Key Research, Programs, and Partnerships

- Centers and programs of Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy address issues of local, state, national and international significance in collaboration with many agencies and organizations. The College's Center for Policy Research advances excellence in the field of public policy on a range of topics such as education finance and teacher quality. The Center for International Development designs and implements international technical assistance and training projects, conducts policy-oriented research, and contributes to both the theory and the practice of international development. The Professional Development Program is a leader in continuing professional education and extending learning and serves as a resource to governments at all levels as well as non-profits.

- The School of Criminal Justice excels in the study of crime and society’s response to crime, including the organization and operation of crime-control systems. Particular emphasis is placed on the interactions among the many agencies which comprise criminal justice systems and on the relationships between these systems and other facets of society.

- The School of Public Health collaborates with the New York State Department of Health to help inform public policy, evaluate public health interventions, and improve practices through the Center for Public Health Preparedness using diverse methods, from workshops to online courses.

- Key research centers, partnerships and programs include the following:
  
  Rockefeller College
  - Center for Legislative Development (international)
  - Center for Policy Research – Several research programs including:
    o Border and Homeland Security
    o Policy, Collaborative and Fiscal Networks in the Public Sector
    o Education Policy
    o Intergovernmental Studies Program
  - The Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research
  - National Center for Security and Preparedness
  - Center for Women in Government & Civil Society
    o Nonprofit Education Initiative
    o Non-Profit Management Certificate
    o Tech Valley Civic Forum

Other Units
- Center for Technology in Government
- Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center – School of Criminal Justice (SCJ)
- Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics – SCJ
- Capital Region Cyber Crime Partnership - SOB
- The schools of business, education, public health, and social welfare as well as other UAAlbany units work to improve public policy – see relevant subject sections.
Health and Health Care

UAlbany is improving the health and health care of citizens and communities from the local to global levels through engaged research and teaching and extensive collaborations. UAlbany’s strategic location in New York’s capital city networks the School of Public Health (SPH) to one of the largest public health laboratories in the nation, the New York State Department of Health (DOH). This alliance puts cutting-edge research and scholarship within reach of the region, state, and world. Other academic units across the University are very involved in addressing health and health care issues.

Students in the Community

The region and state benefit from SPH graduate students working in internships and field placements. Many students serve the state and county health departments, along with state and local agencies and providers, federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as international health groups.

Key Research, Programs, and Partnerships

- The School of Public Health, located on UAlbany’s East Campus, links academic study to the world of public health practice, addressing critical issues from cardiac care to HIV treatment to environmental health. Research and partnerships help inform public policy, evaluate public health interventions, and improve practices. Important resources include, for example, the Center for Public Health Preparedness and the University at Albany Prevention Research Center, focusing on community-based interventions to prevent chronic diseases. The newly established Center for Global Health will collaborate with public health agencies and universities in several countries.

- The Center for Functional Genomics is a major anchor for UAlbany’s East Campus which focuses on biotechnology and biomedical research in collaboration with government and private sector partners. The CFG promotes research and education related to gene function and provides basic laboratory services to hundreds of bioscience researchers at companies, universities, and government agencies around the world, helping them create robust, reliable results quickly and affordably.

- The Gen*NY*Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics, seeking to help accelerate the dissemination of research findings to clinical settings, is working with regional research, health care provider and advocacy partners to create the Capital-Adirondack Network for Cancer Research and Education. Its goal is to develop a new model for regional comprehensive cancer care.

- The Northeast Regional Forensic Institute (NERFI), a partnership with the New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center, is a training and technical assistance program in forensics science to advance public safety. NERFI is addressing the nationwide shortage of forensic scientists which has created critical casework back-logs in labs nationwide. The DNA Academy cuts forensic science training time in half.

- The Life Sciences Research program in the College of Arts and Sciences includes scientists in the fields of chemistry, biology, psychology, and behavioral neuroscience. Together they work collaboratively towards scientific discoveries that establish the “pathway” to the cure.

- The Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities is a collaborative effort among several UAlbany units, the State of New York, community groups, hospitals, and
county health departments. The Center addresses inequities among minorities in health access and outcomes in the smaller cities and towns of New York including Albany. Several projects are under way such as one for HIV prevention (Capitalize on Community) and another to improve the health of teens at-risk for gang involvement.

- Other important research and programs include:
  - Center for Health Workforce Studies – SPH
  - Northeast Public Health Leadership Institute - SPH

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**Information and Information Technologies**

Reflecting the importance of information and information technologies to modern society, business, and industry, UAAlbany has worked with hundreds of public- and private-sector organizations in helping them make the most of their information resources. University students, faculty, and researchers partner with outside user communities in developing innovative information-based applications and helping users increase their effectiveness through better use of their information. Further UAAlbany’s libraries, among the top 100 research libraries in the country, serve as a major regional resource.

**Students in the Community**

Student interns in the M.S. in Information Science program have worked on such varied community projects as helping the Albany school district develop a "Safe Internet" curriculum for middle schoolers and creating an innovative "Skateboarding Discussion Group" that helped the Albany Public Library engage young adults in its literacy programs. Further, interns from the Department of Communication and the English Department’s journalism program assist business, government and local media whether locally or beyond the region.

**Key Research, Programs, and Partnerships**

- The University Libraries offer both on-site and web site use to the community. The public may visit the libraries on the uptown and downtown campuses where they may use any of the 2 million volumes of books and periodicals, electronic databases and online journals as well as other extensive collections. Off-campus community users can access UAAlbany's online catalog and connect to many open-access, full-text sites.

- The College of Computing and Information (CCI): The College engages numerous communities of practice in its research and educational activities. The faculty of the College partner with public and private-sector organizations in such projects as:
  - Web development for K-12 education
  - Web-based Public Participation in Policy Development
  - Website assessment for the NYS Education Department
  - Management of IBM's research library
  - NYS Public/Private Sector Cyber Security Workgroup
  - NYS Council for Universal Broadband Action Teams

In addition, CCI sponsors several community oriented events, including:

- Innovation Forum (with the Center for Economic Growth's TechConnex)
- Technology Leaders of Today Speaker Series
- Junior First Lego League
• The University has partnered with industry to develop interdisciplinary programs such as the Program in Financial Market Regulation, designed to produce IT-savvy graduates who can help keep the nation’s financial markets safe for investors.

• The award-winning Center for Technology in Government works with government to develop information strategies that foster innovation and enhance public services.

• Researchers at the Institute for Informatics, Logics, and Security Studies (ILS) help U.S. intelligence analysts fight terrorism by building better tools to find answers to their questions.

• Other significant computing & information projects with outside partners include:
  - Social Robotics Consortium of the Capital Region – ILS with CCI
  - Center for Information Forensics and Assurance – CCI, School of Business (SB), School of Education (SOE)
  - Capital Region Cybercrime Partnership – CIFA, SB, CCI
  - National Transportation Information Systems Planning – College of Arts and Sciences, CCI
  - Center for Urban Youth and Technology – School of Education (SOE)
  - Science and Technology Entry Program – SOE

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**Sports**

The strong athletics program at UAlbany provides many opportunities for community involvement, whether through students in athletic teams volunteering their time in the community, the annual New York Giants summer training camp hosted by the University, or the exciting sporting events that are open to the public throughout the academic year.

**Students in the Community**

All of UAlbany’s 450 student-athletes give back to the community through service. Many teams have their own projects but all student-athletes participate in community service through the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. In 2007-08, student-athletes donated approximately 1,700 hours towards activities ranging from helping in soup kitchens to fundraising walks. Some of the projects have included: the Ronald McDonald House, the Cystic Fibrosis Stair Climb, Juvenile Diabetes Walk, Breast Cancer Walks, St. Patrick’s Soup Kitchen, Relay for Life, the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program, Project Strive, and the Regional Foodbank of Northeastern New York.

**Key Programs and Partnerships**

• Since 1996, UAlbany has hosted the New York Giants for their annual summer training camp. In 2008, the camp drew approximately 44,000 visitors, the second highest attendance on record since the partnership started. The camp attracts visitors who might not otherwise have come to the campus and allows the University to invest in relationships with the greater community by providing an opportunity for fans to meet the team and see them up close, in action. Fans come from all across the country and contribute to the overall economic vitality of the region when they spend time in the Albany area during their trip. The University benefits through positive exposure and the Giants’ participation in special events that raise scholarship funds.
• UAlbany’s sports teams provide tremendous family entertainment to tens of thousands of Capital Region sports fans at reasonable prices all year round. The fall features championship football and volleyball teams and UAlbany’s nationally ranked field hockey team. Basketball season is always exciting because the Great Danes have been in the thick of March Madness two out of the last three years. The spring semester includes UAlbany’s nationally ranked lacrosse team and perennial champion softball team.