

Research Trust

What is It?

The State of West Virginia created a Research Trust Fund with an initial appropriation of \$50 million to leverage public and private investments that will transform West Virginia's economy. West Virginia University will be able to tap into this fund to double private gifts that support expansions to research faculty and infrastructure in key areas linked to economic development, health care, and job growth. The WVU Research Trust is the University's coordinated response to the opportunity made possible by the State of West Virginia through the Research Trust Fund. WVU's Research Trust effort consists of the Advanced Energy Initiative; the Security and Intelligence Initiative; and the Biomedical and Health Research Initiative.

What will it Support?

The West Virginia Research Trust Fund supports research in energy, biotechnology, biomedical, identification technology, material science and engineering, and environmental science. WVU's efforts are tailored to target those research areas. Money will be disbursed only after private donations or pledges are received by WVU. Private gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

Why this Initiative?

West Virginia ranks 50th in the U.S. in the creation and retention of high value-added, high-wage jobs. In order to participate in the new economy and create lasting opportunities for job growth, West Virginia must strengthen research programs and stop the "brain drain" of talented citizens who leave the state to seek employment.

West Virginia has already seen positive results with a smaller State research investment last year. In one year, the Eminent Scholars Recruitment and Enhancement Program has attracted \$10 million in private support for research professors and their laboratories, including a major gift to WVU's Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center to enlarge the breast cancer research program — a program that will benefit West Virginians throughout the state. Other states, including Kentucky, have invested large sums over long periods in similar programs and are seeing significant returns.

Who Should Support It?

Anyone who wants to work in concert to give West Virginia a competitive edge in the new economy and spur long-term job creation across the state.

For more information or to arrange a visit to WVU, contact:

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