

From the Vice President for Research and Economic Development

With the arrival of President Barchi in 2012, and the impending integration of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, we are heralding in an exciting new era at Rutgers.

Leading a transformation of Rutgers that expands opportunities in research, teaching, and service, Dr. Barchi is committed to leveraging public-private partnerships to create a hybrid university that ensures a more robust future. The Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development is uniquely positioned to facilitate this transformation, which will benefit our undergraduate and graduate students, our faculty and staff, the university's alumni, the residents of New Jersey, and the citizens of the world. And this transformation will dramatically enhance the Rutgers brand.

On Aug. 22, 2012, a day when Dr. Barchi visited all three Rutgers campuses, Gov. Christie signed into law the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act, which included a provision to integrate most of UMDNJ into Rutgers. When this important transition becomes effective July 1, 2013, two medical schools, five other academic units, University Behavioral Health Care, and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey will become part of Rutgers. This transaction will expand the breadth and depth of our research enterprise, thereby contributing to the economic and workforce development of the state.

The research domain already has considerable momentum. External sponsorship of research at Rutgers rose by more than 5 percent last year, despite the poor economy, to \$397.2 million in FY2012 from \$376.4 million in 2011.

The economic contribution from Rutgers' technology commercialization also continues to grow. In 2012, Rutgers received a record 186 invention disclosures from University faculty and was issued 39 utility patents – adding to the 1,100 U.S. and foreign patents and patent applications that Rutgers currently is managing. More than 80 start-up companies have been created based on Rutgers technologies; two-thirds of these are New Jersey-based. According to the Association of University Technology Managers, when compared to our peers, Rutgers ranks in the top five nationally in number of disclosures, licenses executed, patent applications, licensing revenue, patents issued and number of start-up companies.

In 2012, Rutgers was awarded many sizable, highly competitive grants and contracts. Twenty faculty members each received more than \$2.5 million in external support. While life sciences researchers top the list ([click here](#)), it is noteworthy that other fields, such as engineering, marine and coastal sciences, public policy, social work and transportation are well represented.

Our faculty also won major honors in 2012 for their research. Joachim Messing, director of Rutgers University's Waksman Institute of Microbiology, was honored with the 2013 Wolf Prize in Agriculture for

developing a genetic engineering technique that produces disease-resistant crops. Endre Szemerédi, State of New Jersey professor of computer science, was awarded the 2012 Abel Prize by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, one of the highest honors in mathematics. Frederick Grassle, director emeritus of the Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences, received the 2012 Japan Prize for his research in ecology and biodiversity of deep sea organisms. We applaud these outstanding scholars and the many other Rutgers faculty members who were honored this past year for their research, and we appreciate the great impact of these recognitions on the university's global reputation.

Rutgers researchers enjoyed many successes in 2012. With our new leadership, in conjunction with the integration of UMDNJ, we have high expectations for the future. I invite you to review our 2012 Annual Report ([click here](#)) and regularly visit this office's website (vpr.rutgers.edu) to become more familiar with research and economic development accomplishments and opportunities at Rutgers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth J. Breslauer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kenneth J. Breslauer, Ph.D.
Linus C. Pauling Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Dean and Vice President, Life and Health Sciences
Interim Vice President, Research and Economic Development