PENN STATE IS AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE, CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN $11.6 BILLION TO THE STATE’S ECONOMY. FOR EVERY $1 IN STATE SUPPORT RECEIVED, PENN STATE GENERATES $1.24 IN STATE TAX REVENUE.

With 24 locations across the Commonwealth, an academic medical center and a growing health system, Penn State is helping to improve lives in all 67 Pennsylvania counties through education, community outreach, and employment.

The facts and figures below highlight some of the regional impact of Penn State Behrend on the local community. As part of one University, geographically dispersed, Penn State Behrend students, employees, and community members have access to the resources of a top-25 research institution with a global impact.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

$178,879,701 CONTRIBUTED TO THE PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMY\(^1\)

FOR EVERY 100 CAMPUS JOBS,

25 ADDITIONAL JOBS ARE SUPPORTED IN THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

2,610 PENNSYLVANIA JOBS

DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY

Penn State Behrend advances economic development of the Erie region by employing local faculty, staff, and students; by delivering basic and applied research, development and design support to business and industry; by supporting workforce development, and by providing business and engineering expertise to the area’s entrepreneurs and innovators.

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\(^1\) Findings based on FY 2017 study, conducted using a model endorsed by the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and the American Association of Universities (AAU), to measure Penn State’s annual contribution to Pennsylvania’s economy.
Penn State Behrend draws students from western Pennsylvania predominantly. More than 95 percent of Pennsylvania residents live within 30 miles of a Penn State campus, and 75 percent live within 15 miles, putting a world-class Penn State degree within driving distance for most Pennsylvanians. Penn State Behrend also supports area youth with K-12 programs that include positive youth development programming, STEAM-focused activities, and a hugely popular summer enrichment program known as College for Kids.

Entrepreneurs and innovators looking to turn their ideas into reality turn to Penn State Behrend’s Innovation Commons. Since the launch of this open ideation and prototyping center in 2016, Penn State Behrend has worked with more than 100 innovators on nearly 160 projects—with seven patents and six company start-ups linked to Innovation Commons support.

In Knowledge Park, Penn State Behrend’s 100-acre technology complex, forward-thinking companies collaborate with students, faculty, and staff of the college. Companies in the park gain access to new talent, fundamental and applied research, and technology transfer while students get relevant hands-on experience. Knowledge Park is the most successful business attraction effort in northwestern Pennsylvania—home to more than 20 companies employing more than 500 people.

Penn State Behrend has a rich history of giving back to the community through outreach initiatives, volunteer work, and contributions to charitable causes. The college operates more than two dozen centers and programs aimed at meeting both business and community needs, including the Economic Research Institute of Erie and the Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Community Outreach, Research, and Evaluation (CORE). Behrend is a local leader in giving to United Way of Erie County. Students engage in service learning and community-based projects as part of the academic curricula. Community members have access to University resources such as Lilley Library, athletic facilities, and a range of arts, cultural and topical events.

For more information on these facts and figures, please contact the Office of Planning and Assessment at opa@psu.edu or 814-863-8721.