



UNIVERSITY OF  
**DETROIT MERCY**



**ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY IMPACT**  
**on METRO DETROIT 2020-21**



**University of Detroit Mercy, a Catholic university in the Jesuit and Mercy traditions, exists to provide excellent student-centered undergraduate, graduate and professional education in an urban context.**

**This year, *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Colleges" Edition ranked Detroit Mercy No. 187 in the Best National Universities category and is one of four universities in Michigan ranked among the top 200 in the nation.**

**As an urban university, we are committed to nurturing the well-being of our community in metro Detroit through educational initiatives, professional services and community investments. Since 1877, the University has been a valuable higher education resource to both Detroit and southeastern Michigan.**

### Economic Impact on Metro Detroit

The 2020-21 fiscal year operating budget totaled \$166 million.

- Detroit Mercy has 1,004 employees.
- Employee compensation for 2020-21 fiscal year totaled \$102 million.
- Detroit Mercy has a service-learning curriculum component that contributed more than 7,500 student volunteer hours to more than 100 metro Detroit community service agencies during fiscal year 2020-21.
- Detroit Mercy invested \$7.2 million in renovations and new facilities projects on its campuses in fiscal year 2020-21.
- Approximately \$10 million in contracts were awarded to Detroit vendors in the 2020-21 fiscal year.
- Detroit Mercy has an estimated annual economic impact of more than \$340,410,000 on the metro Detroit community.

### Business and Community Development Initiatives

In 2015, Detroit Mercy and The Kresge Foundation co-founded Live6 Alliance to strengthen the Livernois Avenue and McNichols Road commercial corridor and Northwest Detroit. The organization has implemented a variety of revitalization strategies, including establishing the Live6 Community Advisory Board; collaborating with community organizations to produce events in the corridor; providing tours of the area to foundation representatives and others; and holding workshops on neighborhood revitalization. Detroit Mercy was a member of the application team that submitted the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Reimagining the Civic Commons Grant, which was implemented in the Live6 neighborhood by the city of Detroit.

The **Detroit Collaborative Design Center** (DCDC) is a program of the School of Architecture that provides professional design services to non-profit community and civic organizations citywide. During the past year, DCDC has worked with partners on a range of projects, including designs for outdoor community landscapes, architectural design projects, neighborhood planning and citywide infrastructure and community engagement efforts. Notable projects have included community-engaged design for a neighborhood resource center in Southwest Detroit; conceptual design for an equestrian center in Northwest Detroit; a reflection garden on the Detroit Mercy campus; and asset mapping experiences in Quilombo communities in Northwest Brazil, among many others. In 2020, DCDC worked on more than 22 projects and initiatives, which included contributions from eight Detroit Mercy architecture students through the cooperative education program. In addition, during the pandemic, DCDC has collaborated with community partners to adapt community engagement strategies to safely reach residents

and other neighborhood stakeholders with a goal of ensuring their visions for the design of buildings, outdoor community spaces and neighborhoods. DCDC has also participated in many national and local conversations about community engagement practices during this time, with an emphasis on how community-engaged design is integrated and linked to racial equity work to create more equitable communities.

**Engineering and Architecture** programs collaborated on developing the Woodward Transit Catalyst Project to provide rail-based transportation from Detroit's Riverfront to the New Center Area. Officially named the **Q-Line**, the project began in 2017.

The Advanced **Electric Vehicle Graduate Certificate program**, available through the College of Engineering & Science, was developed in conjunction with Ford Motor Company to educate aspiring automotive engineers, providing them with the skills and expertise to develop the next generation of advanced electric and hybrid electric vehicles.

Additionally, the College of Engineering & Science offers a certificate program in **Systems Engineering**. In recent years, a team of alumni at Ford Motor Company, students, faculty and staff developed the **Good Turn App**, which connects non-profits with volunteers who can transport resources and materials. This app was made possible by a \$250,000 grant from the Bill Ford Better World Challenge to the College of Engineering & Science. In the spring of 2019, Detroit Mercy Engineering and Nursing students, along with students from the College of Creative Studies (CCS), collaborated with veterans who receive services from the VA Medical Center in Detroit to create devices that help veterans improve their daily quality of life.

The **College of Health Professions** and **McAuley School of Nursing** (MSON) partner with health systems and medical centers throughout southeastern Michigan to provide clinical placements to more than 900 students in undergraduate nursing, graduate leadership, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthesia, doctor of nursing practice, physician assistant, health services and information management programs.

In addition, the MSON added two new tracks to its graduate nursing programs: the **Master's Entry Advanced Generalist Nursing** (direct entry master's program) and the **Emergency Nurse Practitioner certificate program**.

Students from the School of Law provided more than 20,000 hours of **pro bono legal services** to residents of Detroit and surrounding communities through first-year clinical experiences and the School's 11 clinics.

Detroit Mercy's School of Dentistry offers more than **50 continuing education courses** annually for oral health professionals in southeastern Michigan.

In FY 20, the **Institute for Advanced Continuing Dental Education** provided multiple continuing education courses to support practitioners in managing stress and mental health. These free wellness courses were designed to help the practitioner manage their own mental health.

### Academic Outreach

Detroit Mercy's colleges and schools provide a variety of academic outreach programs to serve community needs, including the following examples:

### School of Architecture

Over the last several years, Master of Community Development (MCD) students have made a positive impact in Detroit neighborhoods by partnering with 15 community organizations or projects, such as Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation, Bailey Park Project, Southwest Housing Solutions and Facelift Detroit.

### College of Business Administration

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance:** After completing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) training, Accounting students and faculty donated more than 370 hours of free income tax services to more than 100 low-income community residents, generating more than \$100,000 in refunds and saving taxpayers more than \$33,000 in fees. The city council bestowed an Award of Recognition on the program for its positive impact on Detroit.

**Service Learning:** Fourteen business courses, enrolling 478 students, generated nearly 3,000 service hours during the year. For example, financial literacy lessons were provided to 150 middle school and high school students, and first-year business students raised more than \$3,600 for charity through service-learning projects.

**The Center for Social Entrepreneurship (CSE):** The CSE works with entrepreneurs using business techniques to find sustainable solutions to social problems. The CSE has provided nine-week workshops, followed by extensive mentoring from seasoned entrepreneurs, to more than 40 new business ventures, helping them raise more than \$1.4 million in financing. The CSE also hosts major conferences, including

the Detroit Nonprofit Day and the EmpowerHer Symposium. CSE activities impact nearly 7,600 individuals each year.

**Media Impact:** Local and national news media seeking expert commentary on current events cited College of Business Administration faculty 971 times in newspapers, radio and TV, reaching an estimated 1.2 billion readers, listeners and viewers.

### School of Dentistry

Through its two clinics, a mobile clinic and the school-based sealant program, Detroit Mercy's School of Dentistry completed 59,730 patient visits each year that included \$732,303 in uncompensated care. This care was provided through Medicaid rates and made possible via an institutional and state-funded subsidy of \$5,464,436. The school partners with 14 community sites statewide and provided more than 8,390 patients visits in areas where it is difficult for patients to access care. Students participate in outreach activities throughout the year and provide care to student run/faculty-supervised free clinics.

### College of Engineering & Science

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded \$21.2 million to University of Detroit Mercy over five years for a consortium established with Wayne State University in 2014 to implement a program encouraging more undergraduate students from underrepresented or economically disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue careers in biomedical research. In 2019, Detroit Mercy, and partners Wayne State University and Henry Ford College, received a five-year renewal grant from the NIH of \$19 million to continue the program. Detroit Mercy is the lead grantee in this project, which is called **Research Enhancement for Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (ReBUILD)**. ReBUILD begins with a pre-university summer enrichment program, which assists students in developing academic skills to succeed in college. On the first day of their undergraduate careers, scholars engage in authentic research projects and learn about scientific research methods. During their second semester, they are paired with a research mentor in the consortium. Mentors provide scholars with an opportunity to conduct research in their labs and share in the scientific exchange of discovery through journal articles and conferences. As of fall 2020, there have been 152 ReBUILD scholars at Detroit Mercy.

Detroit Mercy's College of Engineering & Science received a five-year National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (NSF S-STEM) grant of \$998,996 to provide academic and tuition programming for students historically underrepresented in STEM careers. Shadi Bani Taan, associate professor of Computer Science, leads the project, which is titled **Science and Engineering Equity Development (SEED)**.

Elizabeth Roberts-Kirchhoff, assistant dean and Biochemistry professor, along with collaborators at several other universities, received a \$999,899 National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant to support the advancement of mid-career STEM female faculty.

The College's high school STEM pathways program called **Innovating Detroit's Robotic Agile Workforce (iDRAW)** began its second year of operation under a \$653,000 grant from the State of Michigan's Marshall Plan for Talent. During the fall of 2020, more than 140 iDRAW students are enrolled in dual enrollment courses with Detroit Mercy including a new Mechatronics course. Each student in the Mechatronics course received a kit of electronics, sensors, motors and Arduino microcontroller to take home to facilitate their remote learning.

In the summer of 2020, the College held a two-week long virtual workshop for 14 local high school teachers with the support of a \$25,000 grant from the Ford STEAM organization. The boot camp provided instruction for teachers of mathematics, science, and career and technical education to help them better integrate technology and engineering applications into their courses.

The College established community-partnerships with Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision's Urban Cadillac Garden (Detroit), Lake St. Clair Metro Park's storm water raingardens (Harrison Charter Township) and the Entomology Museum at the Universidad Nacional Agraria (Managua, Nicaragua) that will provide opportunities for freshmen students to collect data for their student-led field-projects and develop strategies for tackling environmental issues identified in collaboration with community-action leaders.

Nizar Ibrahim, assistant professor of Biology, and his team made a landmark discovery of Spinosaurus - a swimming dinosaur. This discovery was published by *National Geographic* and the journal *Nature*, and featured in national and international news, including the *New York Times*, ABC News, *Popular Science*, CNN, BBC and others. Detroit Mercy senior biology major, Juliana Jakubczak, accompanied Ibrahim on the dig as a student and is included as a co-author on the *Nature* article. The paper now



has one of the highest altmetric scores ever recorded for a paleontology paper.

The College also received a \$30,000 sub-award on a grant from PlanetM with Continental and Parkofon for a joint study for automated campus parking management and electric vehicle charging availability on campus. This project integrated Parkofon's high-accuracy geo-positioning technology into vehicle on-board electronics or via transponders to test and demonstrate its value through Continental's Parkpocket mobile app. Additional use cases that provide opportunities to use the technology for contactless mobile interactions will be explored for the technology in the upcoming year.

Eleven College student ambassadors visited more than 20 high schools and participated in 11 various STEM/Career/Education fairs, including 12 different individual science, engineering and robotics classrooms in Catholic, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Melvindale and other southeast Michigan and Southfield high schools.

For its social, pre-professional and outreach efforts in metro-Detroit middle schools and high schools, the Chemistry Club (American Chemical Society Student members) annual report for the 2019-2020 academic year was judged to be outstanding for the 16th straight year. The award places the Club in the top 5% of groups nationwide.

### College of Health Professions/McAuley School of Nursing

The **McAuley Health Center (MHC)** is located on the lower east side of Detroit. Despite COVID-19, the Center continues providing health services to underserved individuals of all ages, which resulted in more than 2,000 patient visits during 2019-2020. Additionally, MHC provided training opportunities for more than 20 students in the following programs/areas:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Psychology
- Graduate Nursing Education

The MHC continues to touch many lives through the behavioral health services it provides through the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Interpersonal Collaborative Practice Program: Behavioral Health Integration HRSA grant (UD7HP30928).

### School of Law

The School of Law provides legal assistance to residents of Detroit and surrounding communities through the following clinics: Appellate Veterans Law Clinic, Criminal Trial Clinic, Environmental Law Clinic, Family Law Clinic, Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic, Housing Law Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, International Intellectual Property Clinic, Juvenile Appellate Clinic, Trademark and Entrepreneur Clinic and Veterans Law Clinic.

### College of Liberal Arts & Education

Detroit Mercy's Counseling Clinic serves approximately 250 individuals each year, providing no-cost counseling services to Detroit residents who otherwise would not have access to mental health services. The Psychology Clinic provides services for approximately 300 clients annually.

**The Center for Cybersecurity & Intelligence Studies** hosted its annual CyberPatriot Summer Camp for 50 middle and high school students who wish to learn about cybersecurity and compete in the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot National Competition. The virtual camp served students and instructors from 15 academic and industry partners.

The Center also debuted the **Detroit Mercy Cybersecurity 313 Podcast** as a public service for people in search of cybersecurity information for everyday life.

Since 2014, **Rx for Reading Detroit** has distributed 150,000 new and gently used books in Detroit and surrounding communities.

## Career Job Placement Office

The **Center for Career & Professional Development (CCPD)** helps students transition from school to career through such resources as TitanCareerLink, campus interviews and career fairs. The CCPD engages with more than 2,000 employers seeking candidates for full-time and part-time professional job opportunities. CCPD employer partners also provide career education services to Detroit Mercy students through on-campus workshops and company site tours. The center also operates a clothing closet through community donations which gives students access to a wide selection of professional attire at no charge. In addition, students who are not required to complete an internship for graduation may obtain academic credit for their internship utilizing the CCPD LAC Course.

The **University Ministry Office** offers a weekly service in the city program for students to serve Detroit organizations such as La Casa Guadalupeana and Loyola High School. Detroit Mercy students serve as tutors for students on a regular basis and provide other forms of assistance. One Saturday each month, groups of students assist with Habitat for Humanity, the Pope Francis Center, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Arts & Scraps and many other organizations.

## University Initiatives

Detroit Mercy's **partnership with Macomb University Center**, as well as Detroit Mercy's 12 online programs, offers community residents the opportunity to further their education at or close to home.

Detroit Mercy has **educational partnerships** with University of Windsor, Aquinas College, Henry Ford College and Cornerstone University as well as affiliation agreements with additional area community colleges to facilitate the transfer of academic credits.

## Community Service

Detroit Mercy's three libraries hold a combined collection of more than 1.5 million items, including print and electronic books and journals, films on DVD and in streaming format, government documents, databases and archival materials.

Through a grant from the Ford Motor Company Fund, Detroit Mercy's **Institute for Leadership and Service** supported 17 faculty-student teams that created service-learning projects in which 23 student leaders coordinated projects that allowed 309 Detroit Mercy students to serve more than 3,500 individuals in our community.

Detroit Mercy's Institute for Leadership and Service has **partnerships with area community organizations and agencies** such as Mercy Education Project, Pope Francis Center, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Focus:Hope, Neighborhood Services Organization, Manna Meals, Gesu School, etc., in order for students, faculty and staff to volunteer their support to address some of the area's social problems and injustices. Each school year, approximately 1,500 student volunteers provide service in conjunction with more than 100 community service agencies.

The **Titan Equity Nourish Network (TENN)** develops student leaders through thoughtful engagement with community-driven initiatives that promote a more equitable and sustainable local food system. The program provided opportunities for 428 students to learn more about the local food system and how they could have an impact on short-term effects and understand core issues. It is run by a team of 23 student leaders and engaged 377 other students who provided 1,400+ hours of service. TENN partnered with neighborhood organizations such as Lakeridge Village, the Princeton Street Block Club, Project Healthy Community, the San Juan Block Club and food partners like Tommy's and Metz Culinary Management to recover over 10,000 pounds of food that would otherwise be discarded and delivered it to more than 300 Detroiters.

## Cultural and Athletic Activities

**Detroit Mercy Theatre Company (DMTC)** presents four main stage productions and six second stage productions annually. The DMTC hosts afterglows and a discussion series for local residents that engage in social justice values.

The McNichols Library and the Genevieve Loranger Exhibition Center present the **works of local artists**, as well as those of faculty and students, and are open to the public.

Detroit Mercy offers a variety of **lectures and programs** that are open to the public, including the Architecture Lecture Series, the annual Cushing Distinguished Lecture in Religious Studies, the annual McElroy Lecture on Law and Religion, DeWitt C. Holbrook Lecture on Social Justice, the annual Carney Latin American Solidarity Archive Lecture Series, Black Abolitionist Archive and African American Studies Program special presentations and Business Alumni Week Keynote Speaker.

In addition, the University offers service opportunities in celebration of MLK Jr. Day each year and celebrates Black History Month with a vast array of speakers and special events throughout February. Detroit Mercy also hosts the annual Interfaith Dinner, annual International Dinner & Celebration and Faith in the D Excursions, which provide participants opportunities to visit many sacred spaces throughout Detroit.

Detroit Mercy's 17 NCAA Division I athletic teams provide year-round sports activities with exhibition and league play held on the McNichols Campus; the sports events are open to the public.

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## Detroit Mercy Profile

University of Detroit Mercy is Michigan's largest private Catholic university with more than 100 academic majors and programs. Sponsored by the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, the University has three campuses located in or near downtown and northwest Detroit.

Detroit Mercy is one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities, and the largest of 17 Mercy institutions of higher education, in the United States. *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Colleges" Edition ranked Detroit Mercy No. 187 in the Best National Universities category and is one of four universities in Michigan ranked among the top 200 in the nation.

## 2020-21 Demographic Facts

- Detroit Mercy enrolled 2,663 undergraduate, 1,171 graduate and 1,183 professional school students in fall 2020 for a total enrollment of 4,987.

- About 85% of Detroit Mercy students are Michigan residents; 6% are out-of-state residents (from 34 states) and 9% are international students.
- Detroit Mercy offers more than 100 academic degrees and programs, including 39 certificate programs, 45 bachelor's degrees, 39 master's degrees, seven doctoral programs, professional degrees and one specialist degree. Of these programs, 12 are offered online.
- Detroit Mercy has more than 88,000 living alumni, represented in every state in the nation and in 78 countries around the world.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about University of Detroit Mercy's academic programs or about its community outreach activities, please contact the Marketing & Communications Department at 313-993-1254 or email [marcom@udmercy.edu](mailto:marcom@udmercy.edu). Through academic programs, professional clinics and joint ventures with business and community organizations, the University contributes to the general well-being of the metro Detroit community and the Southeast Michigan region. This commitment reflects the University's mission, which emphasizes concern for the dignity of the individual and for the common good of the world community.



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