

A UNIVERSITY'S ROLE IN STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE'S SYSTEM-WIDE APPROACH

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Presentation Summary (limited to 200 words)

Academic institutions have long been important economic drivers in their local economies. Today, there is a growing expectation that these institutions will play an even greater role in regional economic development and sustainability. In fact, universities have been publically challenged by state and national leaders to contribute to measurable economic growth. They have been charged to develop and leverage strategic partnerships with private sector companies; drive innovation to the marketplace; and provide leading edge educational opportunities for students, all to help secure U.S. competitiveness in today's global economy. The need is immediate, but the path to success is long. Fortunately, the rewards are promising, especially for those institutions able to fully leverage their surrounding assets to improve their own long-term competitive position.

At the University of Tennessee, leaders are embracing their growing role in state economic development as part of the university mission. As such, they have developed a coordinated, system-wide approach to help guide and streamline the university's collective statewide efforts. The focus of this presentation will be where we are, what we have learned so far, and where we think we need to go from here to meet our goals and the goals of others.