

Dear CUMU CEO:

CUMU and The Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois, Chicago have recently formed a partnership to conduct a survey of the Coalition's Member Institutions by assessing the role our universities have as place-based "anchor institutions." Your University and similar institutions are becoming increasingly seen as an integral part of the political and economic vitality of their metropolitan community. While a host of studies have been conducted assessing the role of universities in cities, many of these studies are "one-offs" – either self-referential institutional economic impact analyses or comparative community development case studies (Great Cities Institute).

We already know that 90% of our member institutions reside within the top 100 metropolitan regions and we employ over 162,000 people, while serving over 1.5 million students. Through this data collection your institution and the Coalition will be able to state the economic development impact of our tech transfer and commercialized solutions as well as collective job creation through workforce development and training initiatives. Additionally, we will be able to analyze important budgetary expenditures including our collective investment in community engagement initiatives.

We, the CUMU Executive Committee, would like you to consider supporting this important impact assessment through a monetary contribution. The total cost of the survey is \$38,522.00 which will be partly funded by CUMU's resources. We are asking CUMU members to consider a voluntary contribution of \$250-\$1000 to help supplement the cost of the survey. Please remember that this survey is not only beneficial to the Coalition, but to your individual institution as well. The Coalition has already received financial support from The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Your ability to financially support this effort will not impact your inclusion in the survey.

Enclosed you will find the proposal from The Great Cities Institute, which will be conducting the survey. If you would like to contribute to this initiative, please contact CUMU Headquarters so that we can provide an invoice. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Coalition Administrator, Bobbie O'Connell, at roconnell@towson.edu or by phone at 410-704-3764.

Sincerely,



Steve Diner
Rutgers University, Newark



John Christensen
University of Nebraska, Omaha



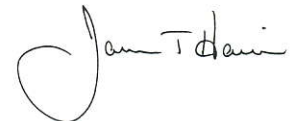
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