

Other economic partnerships, agencies and services on the FSU campus:

The University offers a variety of services to the local business community as part of its effort to promote economic growth in the region:

- ▶ **Center for Regional Progress** – a clearing-house for economic ideas, statistics, data and services for 11 counties in western Maryland, northern West Virginia and southwestern/central Pennsylvania.
- ▶ **Center for Community Partnership** – collaboration with both for-profit and non-profit organizations to enhance business productivity and facilitate learning through skill training and management development.
- ▶ **Western Maryland Small Business Development Center** – collaboration with Allegany College of Maryland, the Allegany County Economic Development Department, Garrett College and Hagerstown Community College to provide individual counseling and workshops to owners of small businesses in Maryland's four westernmost counties.
- ▶ **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center** – an IRS-sponsored program providing free help to community members in preparing federal and state tax returns.
- ▶ **Western Maryland Regional GIS Center** – provides FSU students with real work experience on GIS projects before leaving college.
- ▶ **Maryland Bureau of Mines** – a collaboration with FSU's Department of Geography has resulted in "Environmental Planning and Land Management Institute."
- ▶ **FSU Office of Conferences and Events** — hosted 8,130 overnight guests on the campus in the summer of 2004.



The Future:

With the proposed razing of Tawes Hall scheduled for 2009, the University hopes to grow the incubator over the next four years, with the partner companies graduating into new buildings at the ABC park on campus.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Economic Development Opportunities with Frostburg State University



Tawes Hall

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH FSU



Overview:

Frostburg State University has long been committed to stimulating the economic development of the Western Maryland region. The University is a major employer in the area and its students, parents, alumni and guests contribute to the local economy. In monetary terms, FSU's economic impact on the tri-state region is estimated at \$366 million annually.

For the past decade, FSU has been aggressively working with business and community leaders, as well as appointed and elected officials from across the state, to stimulate the regional economy and support the educational mission of the institution. More recently, two major business sites have been established on the FSU campus to help bring new high-profile and technology businesses to the Western Maryland region.



VARGIS officially opened its Tawes Hall site in May of 2005.

The Tawes Incubator — Science/Technology/Business

In the summer of 2003, FSU completed construction of its new \$33 million Compton Science Center with \$6 million in new equipment, leaving Tawes Hall, the University's former science building, vacant. The University then earmarked about a quarter of the 60,000 square foot building for an incubator facility designed to build the county's base of technology-related businesses. After aggressive recruiting from state, local and campus officials, four technology businesses moved into Tawes Hall. Each business is required to offer an educational collaboration with appropriate academic departments at FSU:

- ▶ **The Mountain Maryland Field Office of the United States Geological Survey (USGS)** is a Federal research agency working with the Geography Department on a variety of environmental science subjects.
- ▶ **Spectrum BioScience** specializes in chemical compound management, sample handling and precision weighing, as well as compound transfer and reformatting in a variety of vials and plates.
- ▶ **VARGIS** is a renowned mapping and GIS company headquartered in Sterling, Va., an affiliate of an international company based in India.
- ▶ **LEDS** provides system integration products and services to the Federal Government, Intelligence Community, commercial and high-end residential customers to help them index, manage and share their information and to simplify their lifestyles.

Allegany Business Center (ABC) at FSU

Frostburg State University has successfully partnered with Allegany County to develop the infrastructure for the Allegany Business Center technology park, a 56-acre parcel of land located on the FSU campus.

Funding for the \$1.3 million project came from several state and federal agencies, including the Appalachian Regional Commission, the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the State of Maryland and Allegany County.

A federally-designated HUB zone for new businesses, ABC at FSU is estimated to bring as many as 290 future high-tech jobs to the area when the Center is fully developed.



The Allegany Business Center at FSU

Benefits of attracting businesses to campus:

- ▶ Offers student internship/research opportunities
- ▶ Attracts professional employees to the area
- ▶ Positions FSU as a leader in tech research and available resources
- ▶ Establishes Allegany County as a "tech corridor" in Western Maryland
- ▶ Engages faculty in collaborative research and testing
- ▶ Creates possible long-term employment opportunities to recent FSU graduates