A common vision and commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals. That is what the University of Texas Board of Regents had in mind when they announced a $2.6 billion UT System Competitiveness Initiative in 2006. The Regents heard the message in the Rising Above the Gathering Storm (RAGS) report that global competition for economic leadership is deeply rooted in science, technology, and health innovation. In order to maintain a U.S. competitive advantage and invigorate the U.S. economy, the Regents approved strategic investments in areas suggested by RAGS: education, research and technology development, competitive capacity, and incentives. These four elements are interwoven, creating a University System that is leading the nation in innovation and excellence. Details of the initial impact of these investments are summarized below.

**Investments**

**Investing in Infrastructure**

**Funding**
- $0.5 billion spent on projects completed through June 2009
- $2.5 billion for remaining projects
- $1.2 billion in expenditures so far (42% of total)
- $2.9 billion in total project costs for all projects, 2005-2013
  - $808 million in TRBs (28%)
  - $667 million in RFS (23%)
  - $442 million in PUF (16%)

**Projects**
- 12 projects completed through June 2009
- 31 additional projects to be completed by 2013

**Square Footage**
- 813,432 square feet has been added or renovated so far
- 5.7 million additional square feet added or renovated by 2013
- 6.5 million total square feet added or renovated
  - 2.1 million square feet of research space (33% of new space; 41% increase in research space over 2005)
  - 1.1 million square feet of clinical space (17% of new space; 263% increase in clinical space over 2005)
  - 0.9 million square feet of teaching labs and classrooms (14% of new space; 10% increase in teaching space over 2005)

**Investing in Talent (STARs)**
- $74.3 million from 2005 through 2009
  - $42.7 million to academic campuses (57%)
  - $31.6 million to health campuses (43%)
- 89 new research faculty recruited—71 on academic campuses, 18 on health campuses
- 31 outstanding faculty retained—27 on academic campuses, 4 on health campuses

**Investing in Innovation**
- $1.9 million for partnership with Sandia National Labs
- 37 awards totaling $1.6 million from the Texas Ignition Fund
  - 23 awards totaling $1.0 million to academic campuses (64%)
  - 14 awards totaling $0.6 million to health campuses (36%)
- The State of Texas has also invested in promoting innovation and technology at universities. UT System institutions have received $110 million in awards (51% of all awards) as of March 17, 2009, from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund
  - $30.3 million Research Superiority
  - $25.8 million Research Matching Grants
  - $53.7 million Commercialization
Impact

Research

Research Expenditures
- $2.2 billion in research expenditures in 2008, 28.6% increase in total research expenditures, 2005–2008
  - 32.2% increase for academic institutions, 26.7% increase for health institutions

Federal Research Expenditures
- $1.2 billion in federal research expenditures in 2008 (57% of total)
  - 17% increase in federal research expenditures, 2005–2008
    - 27.5% increase for academic institutions, 11.2% increase for health institutions
  - UT System’s NIH funding was flat (-0.7%). This reflected overall NIH trends: -0.38% for all awards and +0.16% for awards to higher education.
    - 8.2% increase in NIH awards to UT System academic institutions. In 2008, NIH dollars were 19% of federal expenditures for academic campuses.
    - 1.9% decrease in NIH awards to UT System health institutions. In 2008, NIH dollars were 77% of federal expenditures for health campuses.

Research Productivity
- 7,597 T/TT faculty at UT System institutions in 2008
  - 296 new T/TT faculty at the academic institutions from 2005 to 2008
  - $283,733 in research expenditures per T/TT faculty, a 24% increase over 2005
- 40,022 graduate students at UT System institutions in 2008
  - 1,720 additional graduate students at UTA, UTD, UTEP, UTPA, UTPB, and UTSA from 2005 to 2008
  - 13.5% increase in the number of graduate students at the health institutions from 2005 to 2008
  - $41,649 in research expenditures per graduate student, a 19% increase from 2005

Commercialization
- 16% increase in new invention disclosures from 2005 to 2008
- 26% increase in the number of licenses and options executed from 2005 to 2008
  - number for academic campuses more than doubled
  - 71 start-up companies formed since 2005
  - 7% increase in gross revenue from intellectual property; revenue for academic campuses increased by 44%
  - UT System ranks 6th in 2008 for total number of patents awarded

The National Picture

R&D by All Texas Universities, 2005–2007

Texas (all universities) compared to 12 other states with at least $1 billion in R&D expenditures by universities:
- R&D expenditures by Texas universities increased 11%
  - 3rd highest increase (Ohio—18%, North Carolina—14%)
  - 3rd highest total R&D by universities, 2007 – $3.4 billion
  - Texas’s share of all U.S. university R&D increased
- Federal R&D expenditures by Texas universities increased 5%
  - 4th highest increase (Ohio—19%, North Carolina—14%, Maryland—8%)
  - 4th highest federal R&D by universities, 2007 – $1.8 billion
  - Texas’s share of all U.S. university federal R&D remained flat
- Federal R&D as a share of Texas university total R&D declined. And, in 2007, the proportion was lower than all but Florida (for example, Massachusetts—77%, Pennsylvania—69%, California—60%, Texas—54%).
- Industry-funded R&D expenditures by Texas universities increased 24%
  - 6th highest increase (Wisconsin—40%, Pennsylvania—35%, California—33%, New York—29%, North Carolina—28%)
  - 3rd highest industry-funded R&D by universities, 2007 – $203.1 million
  - Texas’s share of all U.S. university industry-funded R&D increased. In 2007, the proportion was the 3rd highest (California—13%, North Carolina—10%, Texas—8%).
  - Industry-funded R&D as a share of Texas university total R&D increased. And, in 2007, the proportion was the 6th highest (North Carolina—14%, Ohio—10%, Pennsylvania—8%, Massachusetts—7%, Florida—6%, Texas—6%)