

An aerial photograph of the Oakland University campus. The central focus is a tall, multi-tiered brick clock tower with a pointed roof and a clock face. To the right of the tower is a modern, multi-story building with a mix of brick and glass facades. The foreground shows a green lawn with several trees in autumn colors (red, orange, yellow). In the background, more campus buildings and a clear blue sky are visible.

Science Complex Review  
Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee

**Oakland University**

April 19th, 2023

# Oakland Students – Brain Gain



86%

Graduates remain in MI

- Oakland University graduates remain and work in MI.
- Making significant economic contributions by providing MI industries with the highly skilled workforce.

- Grizzle Undergraduates make well over the national average for starting salaries.

\$55k

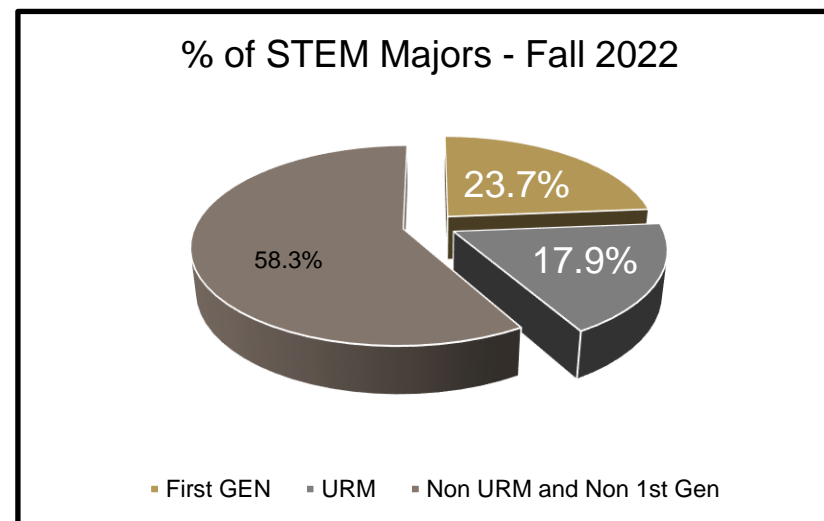
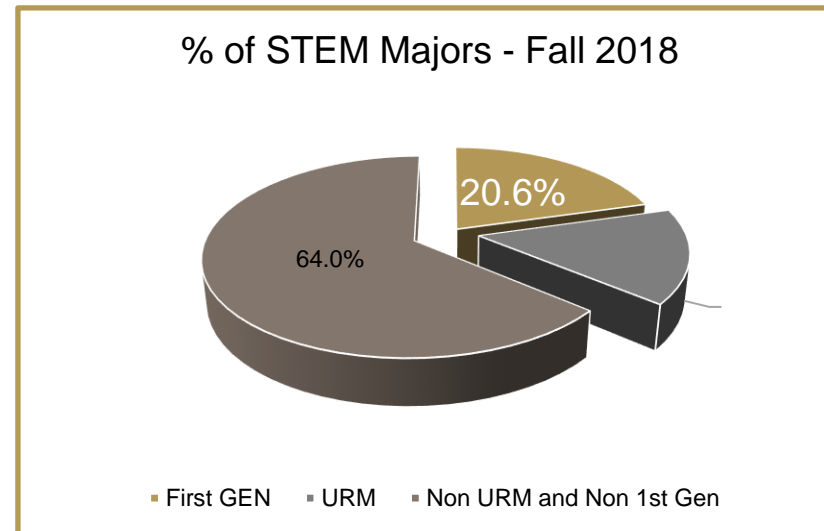
Avg Starting Salary

# Shifting OU Student Demographics



**42%**  
**STEM Majors**  
are URM or First Generation

**7%**  
Increase in URM and First Gen  
Students in past 4-years



# Oakland Students – Brain Gain



**\$74k**

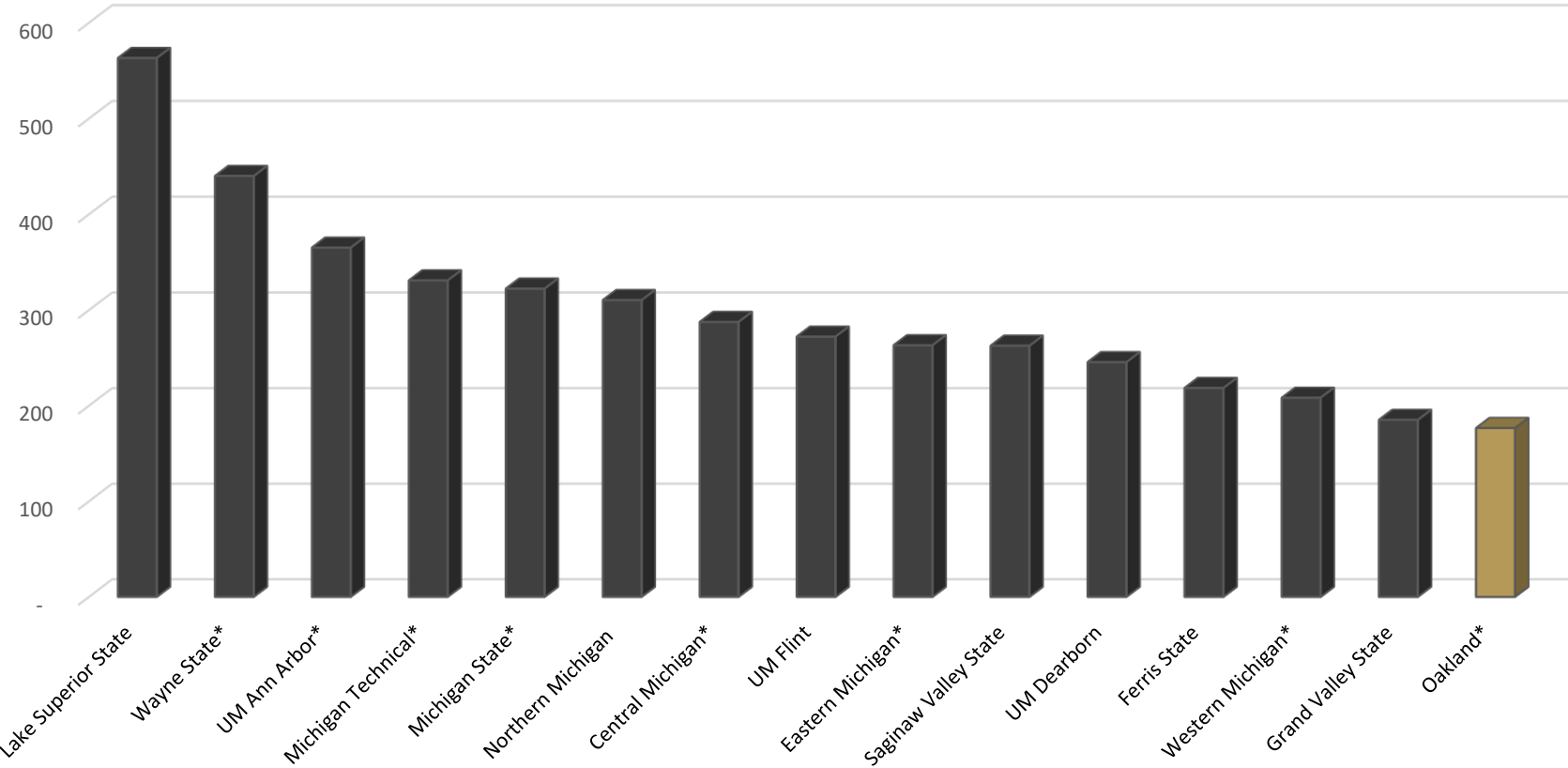
Avg Starting Salary UG  
Engineering Major

- Virtually all Oakland University engineering graduates remain and work in MI.
- With a significant average starting salary.

# Campus Infrastructure Challenges



## FY2022 General Fund Building Sq. Ft. per FYES



**40%**  
 Below State Average of  
 SF per FYES  
 (Equates to 1,827,000 sf)

OU=177<sup>sf</sup> per FYES  
 MI public Avg.=297sf per FYES

\* University is classified by the Carnegie classification as an R1 – “Very High Research Activity” or R2 “High Research Activity”

# Sponsored Research – R2



**\$18.4M**

2022 Sponsored  
Research Expenses

- 2019 Oakland achieved R2 designation in the Carnegie Classifications of Doctoral Universities with HIGH Research Activity.
- Since 2019, Oakland has seen a significant growth of sponsor funded research.
- Current STEM related research is now limited by the lack of infrastructure to support the sciences.

# Hannah and Dodge Hall



**Hannah Hall**



- Opened 1962
- Cost \$1.7M
- 89,418 sq. ft

**Dodge Hall**



- Opened 1968
- Cost \$5.0M
- 151,204 sq. ft

Only minor updates or renovations have taken place in these facilities since they opened



# Science Complex Renovation Project



- Estimated cost to build a new science complex 175,000<sup>sf</sup>
  - \$150M
  - Cost per sf: \$882
- Science Complex Renovation Project 175,000<sup>sf</sup>
  - \$40M
  - Cost per sf: \$228



# Overview of Science Complex Project Scope



- Renovation will transform three floors of Dodge Hall and two floors of Hannah Hall
- Will update dated mechanical and utility systems built for 1960s research demands
- Interactive class modality will benefit Engineering, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology majors and all students through the GE requirements
- Will add 4 additional labs addressing severe space shortages caused by rapid growth in Environmental Science, Biological, Biomedical & Health Science fields
- Will incorporate more accommodating spaces for those with physical disabilities

# Project Significance



CURRENT



FUTURE



# Project Significance (continued)



## CURRENT

- Existing labs are compromised by failing infrastructure requiring class sizes to be reduced



- Many faculty are conducting research in laboratories virtually unchanged since the 1960s



- Outdated laboratories and equipment limit the value proposition for OU graduates as seen through the lens of employers and graduate school admissions recruiters



- Productivity in interdisciplinary collaboration and research is being held back in current research environment



## FUTURE

- Modern, fully functioning labs will increase student throughput, lower the faculty cost per student and keep students on track to graduate on time

- Renovations will strengthen OU's R2 research classification by attracting more top-notch faculty with existing grants and allowing for collaborative research in a modern setting

- Updated teaching and research labs will enable OU students to assimilate into private sector, or into PhD programs with research experiences utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and research techniques

- OU has the faculty talent who are prepared to create high-quality collaboration initiatives between the school of engineering and computer science, chemistry, biology, and the health sciences areas with the proposed renovations

# Project Significance (continued)



The project is critical for OU to provide its faculty and students with revitalized research spaces that support a robust teaching and learning environment where faculty can successfully compete for extramural research funding and students are able to excel in their discipline

- The Science Complex Project is exceptional value at \$228 per sf
- Oakland's contribution to the MI workforce is significant and this project will only increase the economic impact to the state and region
- Grizzle graduates will be much better prepared for the workforce and grad school through experiential learning in the new teaching labs
- OU's research capacity is being limited by the current facilities. For research to grow, this project is required.
- Oakland University supports removing the 25% university contribution for projects under \$50M.



# Questions?

