

## University generates millions for Vallejo economy

Study reports Touro employs 143 people  
 By SARAH ROHRS/Times-Herald staff writer

*September 26, 2006*

Generating jobs and pumping millions into the local economy, Touro University is a powerful hand in the effort to transform Mare Island Naval Shipyard, according to an economic impact report scheduled to be released today.

Touro's students and staff, and the school itself, send valuable dollars into housing and transportation, as well as restaurants, services and local businesses, the study determined.

An economic impact study conducted by Bay Area Economics estimates that Touro University generates \$16.9 million and 143 jobs annually. The "trickle down" impact of Touro's income in the local economy is even more - a total of \$27.5 million and 229 jobs annually, the study concluded. "Touro University-California on Mare Island is a key economic generator for Vallejo and Solano County, and helps regenerate the jobs lost by the closure of the U.S. Naval Shipyard," the report concludes. The Touro-commissioned economic impact report comes out as the university and a consortium of developers plan to go to City Hall with a proposal to convert Mare Island's north end into a university village. (See related story A1)

Besides spending money on local businesses, Touro students also work in local hospitals, pharmacies and help out in local school classrooms, the report says.

Each year, students spend an estimated \$8.7 million while the school itself spends \$5.2 million annually on building and maintenance services, technology upgrades, research equipment, furnishings, lodging, food, printing and sanitation services, the report said.

Touro is also doing its part to make Vallejo a university town, and to create a medical corridor along Interstate 80, particularly by attracting numerous students from University of California at Davis, said Touro media consultant Sue Vaccaro. Vallejo Mayor Tony Intintoli said he is not surprised to hear about the school's economic benefits for Vallejo and the surrounding area.

"It enhances the community in many ways to have places of higher education here," Intintoli said. Touro University employs 143 staff with a total annual payroll of \$11.3 million. Fifty-eight live in Vallejo and another 21 live elsewhere in Solano County, the report said.

One surprising point from the report is that Touro last year issued more medical degrees than Stanford University, Touro's vice president of administrator Richard Hassel said. The two schools are the only two private, non-profit medical schools in Northern California, he said. Touro conferred 109 doctoral degrees last year while Stanford conferred 90.

Above all else, the school is a success story in Mare Island's changing landscape, Hassel said.

"There's been a lot of setbacks in the reuse of Mare Island. There's not been the jobs and sales tax revenues we had hoped. Touro is an exception," said Hassel, also the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce president-elect. A pioneer of sorts, Touro opened its doors in 1999, one of the first businesses to occupy naval shipyard buildings after the base closed in 1996. Touro was founded in New York in 1970, and also has a campus in Nevada. Touro's Vallejo campus enrollment has grown yearly. In 2002-03, some 432 students were enrolled. Last year 761 students attended, and this year nearly 900 are enrolled, Hassel said.

Some 2,500 students are expected in the future. Touro intends to invest more than \$92 million as it expands its undergraduate health science curriculum, and adds nursing and business programs, the report said. A master plan calls for adding 518,000 square feet to the campus. Within its 44-acre campus, Touro offers professional graduate degrees through College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Pharmacy, College of Health Sciences and College of Education. -- E-mail Sarah Rohrs at [srohrs@thnewsnet.com](mailto:srohrs@thnewsnet.com) or call 553-6832.

**By the numbers:**

- Touro employs 67 faculty and 76 staff with a payroll of \$11.3 million. • Touro has invested \$25 million renovating the former Navy Combat systems, Officers' Club, Technical School complex, base hospital, Owens Center, Wilderman Hall and other buildings.
- Last year, 463 Touro students lived in Vallejo and elsewhere in Solano County.
- Each student who lives in Solano County spends \$19,232 annually locally. • Students who live outside Solano County spend \$5,677



First-year Touro University pharmacy students from left: Quang Bui, Victor Monreal and Senaz Tofighi study Monday evening in one of the school's small group discussion rooms.

locally.

- Touro visitors spend \$229 locally per visit, for a total of \$231,000 per year.
- Some 252 medical students were on clinical rotations in local hospitals.
- Last year, Touro's students included 532 medical students, 125 in the physician assistant program, 40 in the College of Education, and 64 in College of Pharmacy.

*Source: Bay Area Economics study of Touro University.*