Economic impact of MSU research center adds up

The construction project to build Michigan State University's Grand Rapids Research Center will create 728 new jobs, $55 million in wages and an economic impact of $95.6 million, the university announced last week.

Once the research center is operating at full capacity by 2029, the economic impact will be $28 million per year, supporting more than 400 jobs, including as many as 44 principal investigators and their research teams, according to a news release.

The findings by the Anderson Economic Group looked only at the impact of the MSU project and not the projects expected on the two remaining parcels to be developed on the former site of the Grand Rapids Press, now dubbed MSU Innovation Park.

Construction of the six-story, $88 million facility began last month at the corner of Michigan Street and Monroe Avenue NW. The project is scheduled to be complete by late 2017.

The new facility will support laboratories studying a host of medical issues — including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, pediatric neurology, autism, inflammation, transplants, cancer, genetics, women's health and reproductive medicine.

— Jim Harger