Since its creation in 2001, UARF has increased University licensing revenue from $490,000 to $5.3 million. Through UARF's efforts, The University of Akron leads the state in return per research dollar with 37 new patents filed and 71 invention disclosures received in 2007 alone.

UARF is a nationally-recognized model for economic development and wealth creation, honored by the University Economic Development Association, Innovation Associates and the Ohio Board of Regents.

As a separate nonprofit corporation, UARF can engage in activities that state universities cannot, such as indemnifying research sponsors or holding equity in companies that license University intellectual property.

UARF has streamlined the technology transfer process, established more than 20 spinouts based on University technology and created an Innovation Campus in support of Akron-based emerging companies.

George Newkome, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School

Kenneth Preston, P.E., J.D.
Associate Vice President for Research and Director, Technology Transfer

Wayne Watkins, M.B.A., J.D.
Associate Vice President for Research

UARF, UA Research Services and the Office of Technology Transfer support licensing, industry collaboration and sponsored programs. With more than 100 faculty researchers and a nationally-acclaimed College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, UA has the experience to support any research endeavor.

UA's technology transfer staff reviews inventions for marketability to match the needs of companies with existing University technologies. Researchers from the University's 41 centers and institutes tailor programs to the needs of companies and organizations of all sizes, executing at-cost research and testing to validate or develop technologies.

Areas of UA research expertise include:
- Polymer science and polymer engineering
- Advanced materials
- Biomaterials and medical applications
- Computational science
- Nanotechnology

To view UA's full portfolio of 157 U.S. patents and 72 published patent applications, visit www.uakron.edu/research/patents.php.

The University of Akron is the public research university for Northern Ohio. It is the only public university in Ohio with a science and engineering program ranked in the top five nationally by U.S. News & World Report. Serving 24,700 students, the University offers approximately 300 associate, bachelor's, master's, doctoral and law degree programs and 100 certificate programs at sites in Summit, Wayne, Medina and Holmes counties. To learn more, visit www.uakron.edu.
UARF’s work in support of The University of Akron has gained national acclaim. In the past year, UARF and UA garnered the following recognition:

- Winner of the 2007 University Economic Development Association Award of Excellence in Technology Commercialization
- Named an exemplary smaller research institution for advanced innovation partnerships in a study conducted for the National Science Foundation
- Ranked #1 in patents issued per million research expenditures, 2000-2004, by the Milken Institute
- #1 in Ohio in highest rate of return per research dollar in technology commercialization, according to the Ohio Board of Regents

UARF’s reputation for successful technology transfer has led to collaboration with Cleveland State University and Youngstown State University to improve regional tech transfer and intellectual property management.

UARF is negotiating to provide services for other state-funded universities, major healthcare providers and Fortune 1000 companies.

UARF’s economic development efforts extend far beyond the University, as the group offers intellectual property support to community businesses and organizations, connects inventors to commercialization support and facilitates faculty efforts to conduct research on behalf of industry.

“Our region has the opportunity to be on the leading edge of research collaboration and economic development.” – Cleveland State University President Michael Schwartz

Under a recently signed agreement, UA and CSU share resources aimed at promoting technology development and economic growth in Northeast Ohio, with UARF performing technology, commercialization and intellectual property management services.

Officials at both universities said this collaboration could lead to forming a shared research foundation to promote economic growth throughout Northeast Ohio.

“It’s simple — if it were not for The University of Akron, we would not be in business.” – Frank Harris, President and CEO of Akron Polymer Systems, Inc.

UARF assisted Harris and fellow UA professor Stephen Cheng in the formation of APS, which commercializes polymers used as coating for high-performance displays, such as HDTVs and instrument panels in airplanes.

Five years after its formation, APS employs 30 and exceeds $2 million in annual sales. The company’s economic impact on the community recently led to a $1.5-million award from the State of Ohio for promoting job growth in the region.

“Without a doubt, UARF’s economic development goals for Northeast Ohio have been evident in all our interactions with the University. Our relationship with UARF has been the single most important factor in attracting us from Colorado.” – John Finley, chairman and CEO of MemPro

In 2005, MemPro and UA entered into a product development agreement, pairing University gas filtration processes with MemPro’s ceramic technology. The innovations pioneered by UA and MemPro improve upon existing catalytic converters that turn environmentally harmful nitrous oxides into harmless nitrogen and oxygen molecules.