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**MGHPCC Generated $4.4M in Economic Activity, Engaged Hundreds of Students in Tech in 2016**

Holyoke, Massachusetts, March 27, 2017 – The Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) reported today that it generated $4.4 million in local economic activity and sponsored educational initiatives that engaged hundreds of local students in technology programs during 2016.

"The MGPCC is making a real difference in the lives of Holyoke residents,” said Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse. “It continues to serve as an economic anchor for the Holyoke Innovation District while developing initiatives that show a deep understanding of the interconnectedness among technology, education and upward mobility. The MGHPCC is a fully engaged and valuable partner with the city.”

The MGHPCC generated $2.9 million in local economic activity in the form of payroll and purchased goods and services associated with the operation of the facility. In addition, the MGHPCC in 2016 undertook a $1.5 million expansion of the data center to meet growing demand for the computationally intensive scientific research conducted at the facility.

In addition to that economic activity, the MGHPCC sponsored several educational initiatives and community programs, including:

* Holyoke Codes, a fun and engaging introduction to science and technology available to all Holyoke middle school students. The program, which has reached more than 2,500 students over the past two years, was running three fully subscribed sessions per week by the end of the year. Activities in 2016 included The Week of Code for all Holyoke Public School seventh graders, family workshops employing Scratch, Arduino, LEGO robotics and other educational tools, a Computer Science Education Week program, and the participation of two local teams in the FIRST LEGO League regional competition.
* An internship program that employs students from Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College. Student participants in the MGHPCC’s internship program have gone on to both four-year undergraduate programs and full-time employment in the technology sector.
* More than 400 community meetings that drew more than 10,000 participants. Organizations that used the MGHPCC’s meeting and conference space included the Computer Science Teachers Association, the UMass Women in Business Roundtable, Future Young Engineers of America, Robotics for Teachers Workshop, the Holyoke Taxpayers Association, the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, Girls Inc. of Holyoke, and the Holyoke YMCA.

The MGHPCC’s member universities also sponsored several local educational initiatives directly. These include a collaboration between UMass Amherst and the Holyoke and Springfield public schools to integrate computer science education throughout the K-12 curriculum, and a high school cybersecurity workshop with Girls Inc. of Holyoke sponsored by a research program led by Boston University.

“Becoming an educational, workforce development and economic partner to the Holyoke and Springfield communities was an important part of the vision of the institutions that founded the MGHPCC,” said Executive Director John Goodhue. “It remains central to our mission.”

**About the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center**

The Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) provides state-of-the-art infrastructure for computationally intensive research that is indispensable in the increasingly sensor and data-rich environments of modern science and engineering. Computers at the MGHPCC run millions of virtual experiments every month, supporting thousands of researchers in Massachusetts and around the world. The MGHPCC was developed through an unprecedented collaboration among the state’s most research-intensive universities (Boston University, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts); the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and private industry (Cisco and EMC). The member universities fund the ongoing operation of the data center, which is open for use by any research organization. For more information on the Massachusetts High Performance Computing Center, visit <http://www.mghpcc.org>.

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