



NORWICH UNIVERSITY™

Expect Challenge. Achieve Distinction.



AVIC Testimony: Property Tax on Higher Ed

Norwich University came to reside in Northfield in 1866, when its previous building in the town of Norwich, Vt. burned. Northfield enticed the University to relocate with the promise of a new building and a parcel of land. **For nearly 150 years, Norwich and the town of Northfield have enjoyed a unique symbiotic relationship with significant financial benefit to both sides.**

Norwich University, its faculty, staff and students are deeply embedded in the fabric of Northfield and the greater central Vermont community. From 1867, when then-University president Edward Bourns organized the Northfield Savings Bank, through present day, when Professor Steve Fitzhugh is provided release time from the University to serve as interim village manager, Norwich has played a role in local vitality and leadership.

Norwich University's presence has had significant financial impact throughout central Vermont. Since 2000, Norwich has contributed non-PILOT dollars to several community organizations including:

- \$50,000 to Brown Public Library
- \$50,000 to the Gray Building
- \$50,000 to Central Vermont Medical Center
- \$180,000 to the Northfield Police Station
- \$200,000 for Northfield's new fire truck

When the town of Northfield was unable to acquire the historic armory building on the village common, Norwich purchased and renovated it. Today, the armory building is home to the **University's College of Graduate and Continuing Studies, representing 85 employment opportunities and \$25 million in revenue.** These academic programs serve students from all over the world.

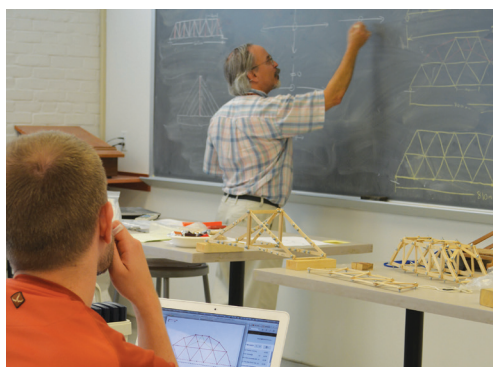
In 2003, Norwich created NUARI, a research and development activity that, since inception, has conducted more than \$48 million in research. NUARI presently employs 12 highly technical people and is actively recruiting 8 additional information technology positions that will be based in Northfield Village.

Collaboration between Norwich and the town of Northfield around infrastructure, utilities and essential services has yielded cost savings as well as increased access and quality of services.



NORWICH UNIVERSITY™

Expect Challenge. Achieve Distinction.



The University, supported by its alumni, has invested \$41 million dollars in its physical plant, employing approximately 400 workers in the construction sector. The new biomass plant is expected to save the University approximately \$1 million a year in heating costs, and sources an estimated 13,000 tons of wood chips annually from providers within a 100-mile range.

In 2003, Norwich University's relationship with the Vermont National Guard brought the Guard's new Readiness & Regional Technology Center to Northfield, located on the Norwich campus. The 88,000 square foot facility is a prototype for future readiness and regional technology centers, employs 30-40 people, and draws significant numbers of people to Northfield for training exercises and courses.

The Norwich University campus hosts numerous Northfield and central Vermont events including:

- **Northfield High School proms and commencements**
- **Vermont State Police Physical Training and Testing**
- **Vermont National Guard Physical Training and Testing**
- **Vermont State Science & Math Fair**
- **FIRST LEGO League robotics competition**

In summer, local children occupy Norwich athletic fields and AAU programs use the University's sports facilities. **Throughout the year, the University hosts an array of events open to the community and with positive economic impact for area businesses.** Sports events, lecture series, performing arts, job fairs, blood drives and charitable fundraisers engage the community and direct dollars to support local businesses. The Todd Lecture Series attracts nationally recognized speakers discussing relevant topics of the day, most recently featuring Thomas Friedman, VADM Mike McConnell, GEN Barry McCaffrey, and Bruce Lambrecht. These events are free and open to the public.

Norwich takes great pride in preparing a highly qualified workforce, perhaps more so in areas of critical need including teachers, nurses and STEM-based professionals. Norwich science faculty provide enrichment programs for local schools with a Mobile Energy Lab and chemistry demonstrations. For more than 40 years, Norwich has been a leader in providing high school juniors and seniors access to college courses at a substantially reduced tuition rate, a model the state is now adopting.

84% of Norwich students volunteer in the community for an excess of 10,000 hours of service each year. Based on 2011 rates assigned by the non-profit advocacy organization, Independent Sector, this equates to



NORWICH UNIVERSITY™

Expect Challenge. Achieve Distinction.



more than \$180,000 of in-kind services annually. In addition, more than 40 work-study students are based off-campus, in the greater community. Norwich students actively support the efforts of local law enforcement and emergency responders. When Tropical Storm Irene devastated the region, Norwich students, by virtue of their own initiative and without school-sponsored direction, contributed 4,000 hours of volunteer work on their own time in a single month: this, on top of the 10,000 hours they contribute to the community on a regular annual basis.

In addition to the myriad ways Norwich University contributes to the economy and vitality of the town of Northfield, **the University and the Town have voluntarily established a PILOT agreement.** A state-mandated increase in the University's tax burden will yield far-reaching consequences with increased costs to students already struggling to afford access to higher education and reductions in services for students and the greater community.

In response to the economic recession of 2008, Norwich was forced to cut its operating budget by 6%, resulting in work force reductions that were felt throughout the community. Similar ramifications in the face of increased tax burdens cannot be ruled out. A series of factors combine to place stressors on higher ed institutions, stemming from the continued weak economy, evolution of technology and online programs, increased competition from for-profit and traditional programs, reduced government support, and greater external pressures and scrutiny.

Norwich University is a non-profit entity integral to the town of Northfield and the central Vermont community. The quality of education directly impacts our communities future strengths and vulnerabilities. Norwich delivers high-quality education and brings critically important career opportunities to central Vermont. Norwich University and Northfield have created a mutually beneficial symbiotic relationship based on an impressive history spanning nearly 150 years.

A state-mandated PILOT is unnecessary and denigrates the long-standing history between Norwich University and its hometown of Northfield. Agreements between the Town and the University are a local issue and should not be subject to state mandates.

Norwich University is a diversified academic institution that educates traditional-age students and adults in a Corps of Cadets and as civilians. Norwich offers a broad selection of traditional and distance-learning programs culminating in Baccalaureate and Graduate Degrees. Norwich University was founded in 1819 by Captain Alden Partridge of the U.S. Army and is the oldest private military college in the United States of America. Norwich is one of our nation's six senior military colleges and the birthplace of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). www.norwich.edu