



**Press Release – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

For immediate release

## **Higher Education's £2.8 billion contribution to the Yorkshire region**

Higher Education generates an impressive £2.8 billion for the Yorkshire & Humber region comparable to banking & insurance and the food & drink sectors. This is equivalent to 3.2% of the region's GDP, according to new research commissioned by Yorkshire Universities.

The findings will be presented on 23<sup>rd</sup> June in York at a special evening reception for key regional decision makers. Guest speaker will be the Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP, Minister for Yorkshire & the Humber.

The region's universities and higher education colleges support nearly 39,000 jobs and have over 206,000 students with a total spending power of £980 million. Yorkshire & the Humber is an attractive region for students with the highest inflow of undergraduates of all the English regions; 43% of students studying in the region coming from other parts of the UK. The region produces around 55,000 graduates per year and the regional employment rate for people with at least a degree level qualification is 87.4%.

"Yorkshire's universities represent a powerhouse of research and expertise", said Professor Michael Arthur, Chair of Yorkshire Universities and Vice-Chancellor of University of Leeds. "Yorkshire's universities have the strength and diversity to ensure that higher education continues to make a significant impact on the region's economic, social and technological future".

The higher education sector produces world-class research, expertise and resources which organisations and employers can access to develop and grow their business. The combined research power of the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York ranks alongside that of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Yorkshire Universities' research study also details how the higher education sector is a major contributor to social and community services, regeneration, culture, sport, health and wellbeing within the region making its impact far reaching.

Professor Michael Arthur added: "The knowledge and learning opportunities available in our universities are world-class. We have a proven track record of making these strengths available for the benefit of the whole community."

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

There will be both short interview and photo opportunities with Regional Minister, Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP at the evening reception at 5pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Members of the press and media are welcome to attend the evening reception by prior arrangement. Please contact Maite Barnett on 0113 343 1587

Electronic copies of the report are available by contacting Maite Barnett on 0113 343 1587 or email [m.barnett@yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk](mailto:m.barnett@yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk).

Yorkshire Universities is a member organisation representing the 11 universities and 3 higher education colleges in Yorkshire & the Humber. Yorkshire Universities is responsible for producing a collective policy view from the higher education institutions on regional and other issues. It is the focal point for contact between the higher education institutions, the government and other regional bodies. Yorkshire Universities is involved in the development, co-ordination and management of a range of collaborative projects with the higher education institutions in the region (details of which can be found at [www.yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk/aboutus.php](http://www.yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk/aboutus.php) )