Overall, in FY2020 Core Theme 1 dipped slightly from it path toward achieving its goal.

1.1.1 Between FY 2018 and FY 2019, the number of graduate assistantships with teaching and/or research responsibilities decreased from 292 to 228. There are several factors that contributed to this decrease. First, over the course of about 10 years (and culminating around this time), there were significant decreases in grant funding related to 7 faculty members who had been PIs on some of ISU’s largest grants. Two of the faculty members left the university; others saw the ending of grants or simply were not able to create large new funding streams. From these faculty members alone there was a resulting $9 million decrease in grant amounts, significantly impacting the funding of graduate assistantships. Second, this same timeframe included the end of the EPSCoR MILES grant and the start of the EPSCoR GEM3 grant. In general the multi-year EPSCoR grants build up over the course of the grant period, resulting in intense spending in the final year or so. So the final year of the EPSCoR MILES grant resulted in higher numbers of funding for graduate assistantships, but that number then dropped back down when the new EPSCoR GEM3 grant began, and that number is expected to slowly climb back up.

Work is ongoing by both the Office of Research and the Graduate School to continue to increase the number of graduate assistantships. The Office of Research has begun working on a new multi-year effort to support faculty research and grant proposals, which should result in increases in graduate assistantships. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Office of Research held Town Hall gatherings to talk with faculty about their research. In these meetings, OR is actively gathering information about what faculty members need to increase and improve their research. This first step of information gathering will provide the groundwork for the development of additional support processes. The Graduate School is also actively working on increasing the number of graduate assistantships since the current available graduate assistantships are not enough to support the needs of all graduate students. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Graduate School began running a multi-year pilot program aimed at increasing the number of teaching assistantships each year. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Graduate School’s allocation of assistantships will have increased by 30 as part of this project. In addition, the dean of the Graduate School has been working on the development of 10-15 presidential fellowships, a new category of funding for graduate students. And a budget request to cover 10 new graduate assistantships has been requested for FY2022-2023.

1.1.2 The COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected the number of career-related internships. Since March 2020, the Career Path Internship (CPI) program has seen a significant decrease in participation because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many internships were either put on hold or canceled altogether. Both students and supervisors were hesitant to participate in CPI positions due to various factors, including their ability to work remotely, safety protocols, and the general issues created by moving classes online. In a standard year, there is also a large portion of CPI
internships that take place during the summer months; however, most of those opportunities were postponed until 2021. Participation in the program is starting to creep back up, but the program expects participation as a whole to be down in FY21 as well.

1.1.3 There are essentially two components of this decrease of $6.4 million. In 2016, ISU closed the RISE research center, and as a result, the research dollars significantly dropped. Since then, ISU has worked diligently to increase research expenditures, as seen in 2019. Overall Sponsored Research expenditure decreased over this period by $4.6 million. Much of it is again attributable to RISE. Of this decrease, $2.5 million can be attributed directly to the termination of the RISE initiative. Another $2.1 million is left to decreases in other sponsored research expenditures. ISU Appropriated funds in FY16 and essentially nothing in FY20.

1.1.4 In 2018, ISU graduated the majority of its international students. A significant number of those students graduated with degrees in the College of Science and Engineering, and upon their graduation, the percentage of undergraduate students participating in research dropped. The requirements of the pandemic did not support student research activities in 2020. The Office of Institutional Research was planning to survey department chairs in 2020 to collect any additional courses since the survey was conducted in 2019 of courses that meet the definition of course-based undergraduate research, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the survey was postponed.

1.3.1/1.3.2 Objective 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 Percentage of students and faculty participating in IPE

Analysis. In 2020 the programs that had a decrease in IPE participation included; radiographic science, physical therapy, communication sciences and disorders (undergraduate), and communication sciences and disorders (graduate). Due to the pandemic, KDHS priority shifted to the herculean effort to ensure students could participate in patient care, at least from an individual discipline perspective. Some programs do not require IPE events for their accreditation. With the pandemic, the programs shifted their focus to the core accreditation requirements and may not have prioritized IPE events. With the shifting priorities during the pandemic, the Geriatric Symposium, an IPE event that involves all the programs in the KDHS and for many programs is the only IPE event they participate in, was canceled. Other opportunities for students to work with other health profession disciplines include the Community Screening Events on the Meridian campus and Spring Health Fair. Without assessment and reflection activities, these events are not included in the metric and canceled due to the pandemic. The COVID screening and immunization efforts have an interdisciplinary component of students from various health professions working together, although without an assessment and reflection component likely not captured for the metric.

Regarding faculty participation in IPE events, the programs with decreased participation included; physical therapy, radiographic science, communication science and disorders,
and physician assistant studies. Faculty in KDHS are concurrent patient care providers, and with the pandemic, there was a shift in priorities to meet the increased demands of patient care needs.

The cancellation of the Geriatric Symposium highlights an opportunity to create more IPE events throughout the semester so that the cancellation of one event does not undermine the metric success. The Interprofessional Affairs Council has been dormant the past year due to the pandemic, with plans to resume work in Fall 2021.