



# Idaho State University

## Office for Research

## Research & Creative Scholarship: Aiming Higher!

### 2026 ANNUAL PROGRESS & IMPACT REPORT

Idaho State University continues to expand its research footprint, driven by innovation, strategic partnerships, and a shared vision to discover new knowledge for a better future. The Office for Research works toward this vision with a focus on facilitating and enabling research, innovation, and creative scholarship.

### FY26 METRICS & IMPACT OVERVIEW

| Metric                       | Annual Result    | Impact Summary                                                                |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| External Proposals Submitted | <b>\$123.7M</b>  | 264 proposals submitted (7% increase, +20 year-over-year)                     |
| External Awards Funded       | <b>\$41.1M</b>   | 190 total awards (+3 year-over-year)                                          |
| Grant Expenditures           | <b>\$39.9M</b>   | Sustained sponsored research activities                                       |
| F&A Recovery                 | <b>\$4.3M</b>    | +\$400k year-over-year supporting <a href="#">ISU research infrastructure</a> |
| Strategic MoUs               | <b>22 Active</b> | Expanding industry, health, energy & academic <a href="#">partnerships</a>    |

## FY26 ISU RESEARCH METRICS (MILLIONS USD)



## TRANSFORMING FACULTY SUPPORT

To equip faculty for competitive national research sponsorship, the Office for Research and ISU Research Council established a streamlined internal funding structure:

### 1. SPARC (Support Program for Advancing Research & Creativity)

- **Funding Level:** Up to **\$8,000** per award (increased from \$5,000).
- **Focus:** Expands foundational scholarship, creative activity, and preliminary project development across all academic disciplines.

### 2. PREP (Proposal Readiness & Enhancement Program)

- **Funding Level:** Up to **\$3,500** per award.
- **Focus:** Pre-award support to polish external applications, grant writing workshops, graphic design, and external peer reviews.

### 3. PATH (Proposal Assistance Toward High-Impact Funding)

- **Funding Level:** Up to **\$50,000** per award over 12 months.
- **Focus:** Supports proposals requesting **\$1M+** in strategic priorities: Health, Energy, Environmental Stewardship & Security, and Community Connection.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & RECOGNITION

ISU expands public-private and industry collaborations, fostering regional economic growth and scientific breakthroughs.

- **NuCube Energy:** Strengthening relationships in nuclear/clean energy, targeting development of a new test reactor in 2027–2028. [Learn more](#)
- **Idaho Accelerator Center:** Secured **\$4M** in technology enhancements with the support of Congressman Mike Simpson.
- **Critical & Strategic Minerals:** Partnering with INL and industry to fortify national supply chains and develop talent pipelines.
- **INL Partnership:** Leading the nation in INL joint appointees across nuclear, critical minerals, and geothermal research.
- **High-Impact Recognition:** **65** media stories; **9** faculty in [Top 2% Scientist List](#).

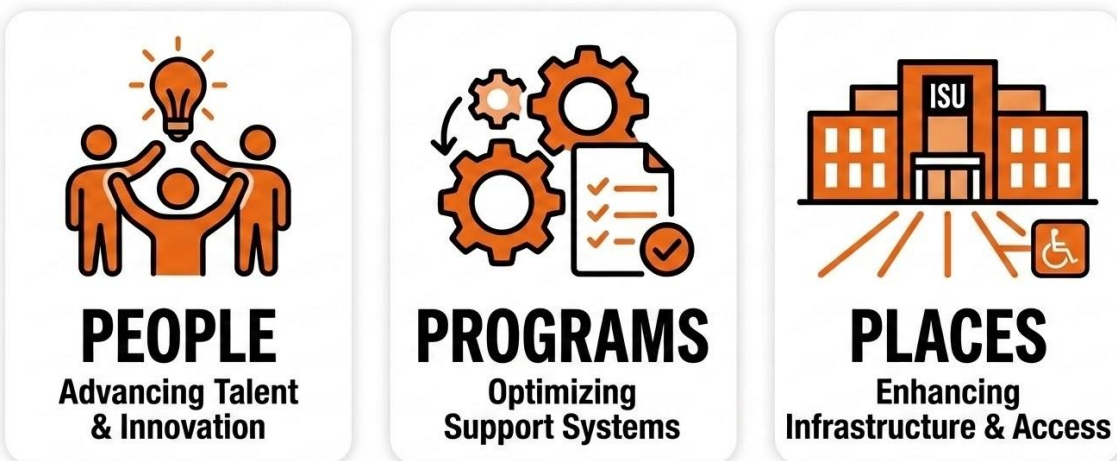
## NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Faculty Research Development:** The newly established [ASSERT Faculty Fellows Program](#) supported 9 ISU faculty to enhance faculty research capacity. The first ASSERT cohort included Meghan Woolley, Claudia Huerta Vera, Solomon Zeleke, Donald Hastings, Erin Rasmussen, Daniel LaBrier, Diana Schow, Matthew Levay, Erika Coles, and Kavita Sharma.
- **Graduate Research Fellows:** Three ISU graduate STEM field students were awarded the highly prestigious 2026–2028 NSF Graduate Research Fellow designation accompanied by a generous education and expense stipend.
- **Student Research Excellence:** ISU supported a record 60+ undergraduate students at the Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research (ICUR) this summer. [Learn more about undergraduate research here](#).
- **CHESS Research Fellow:** Matthew Levay continues his service as an Office for Research Faculty Fellow supporting faculty research and creative scholarship in the College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (CHESS).
- **Biomedical Capacity Assessment:** Tori Scharp began her Office for Research Faculty Fellowship to improve and expand ISU's biomedical research capacity. The NIH-funded BRING-IT project, led by Michele Brumley and Kristin Van De Griend, contributes to expanding ISU's overall research enterprise.

## NEAR-HORIZON PRIORITIES

- **Technology Transfer Pathways:** Developing robust IP, patent, and licensing guidelines to commercialize discoveries.
- **Biomedical Capacity (BRING-IT):** Strategic action plan to increase institutional resources and capacity in biomedical research.
- **Grant Project Management Service:** Easing administrative burden for faculty with project management, milestone and budget tracking, and communications support.
- **Shared-Use Resource Catalog:** Campus-wide research equipment catalog to drive cross-disciplinary team science.
- **Research Center Sustainability:** Strengthening financial foundations and deepening industry/non-profit partnerships.
- **Focused Communications:** Improving internal reporting tools and external communication of economic impact to local communities.
- **Public-Private Growth:** Aggressively pursuing joint funding and talent pipelines via MOUs, INL joint appointments, and collaborative project proposals.

## ISU Office for Research: THREE Ps STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



ISU Faculty and Students:

Be assured of [ISU's commitment to the centrality of research](#) to ISU's mission. ISU is committed to fostering excellence through innovative research and creative scholarship.

Our programmatic improvements focus ISU's research and creative effort, energy and resources to generate impactful discoveries and offer transformative solutions to today's current and emerging concerns. We are ever-more committed to growing as a recognized leader in addressing complex, real-world problems, and exploring opportunities that translate research inquiry into tangible solutions.

The ISU Office for Research continues to work alongside our outstanding faculty to support, expand, and enhance ISU's research capabilities, ensuring that the University remains a leader in transformative research and creativity.

THANK YOU for your imaginative, innovative and impactful work. Go Bengals!

Marty Blair

ISU Vice President for Research and Economic Development

**For more information, visit: [www.isu.edu/research](http://www.isu.edu/research)**

NOTE: All content, reported data, and the summary message were human-developed. Artificial Intelligence (AI) was used to "tighten" the text, create the graphics, and format the document. We encourage ISU faculty and staff to responsibly use AI to enhance human-generated ideas and creativity.

