University of Idaho

ANNUAL REPORT
April 2025

The highest tier of research in the nation.

The University of Idaho's 2025-2030 strategic plan is in development and expected to be completed this summer, pending board approval. Through extensive input from students, faculty, staff, alumni, industry leaders, and state officials, the plan will focus on evolving educational models for all learners, advancing research, strengthening workforce collaboration, and enhancing operational excellence.

As we finalize this new roadmap, we continue to execute on our strategic priorities centered on student success (access, enrollment, persistence and the student experience) earning R1 research designation (recently achieved) and telling our story. The U of I remains committed to innovation and excellence to ensure a lasting impact for Idaho and beyond.

Among the initiatives aimed at boosting student success is our Vandal Gateway program. It aims to improve access for students who may have experienced medical, family or other types of tragedies that impacted their academic achievement. The program provides structured tools and programs to those students that otherwise would not qualify for entry into the U of I. Our enrollments have significantly increased over the past eight semesters, our focus on improving math persistence has paid dividends, and students often tell us that the campus experience exceeds their expectations.

Our Vandal Finish program has also awarded hundreds of associate degrees to former students that completed enough credits for such a degree but left the university before finishing their bachelor's degree.

Early in 2025, the University of Idaho achieved a historic milestone, becoming the first institution in the state to earn designation as an R1 research university.

While this distinction is a testament to our wide-ranging research enterprise, it also speaks to our role as a leader in education and innovation in Idaho and the nation. Earning R1 classification elevates not only our research endeavors, but also our other strategic pillars – student success and telling our story.

The research the U of I does directly benefits the state of Idaho by working on pressing problems to improve outcomes for cybersecurity, nuclear science, semiconductor and microelectronics industries, as well as those related to natural resources and agriculture.

More than half of undergraduate students participate in research activities at the U of I, offering them unique hands-on experiences that make them more competitive in the job market. This classification will expand that impact. Access to research opportunities produces graduates who are more ready to make a difference in the Idaho workplace.

R1 status enhances the university's reputation locally, nationally and internationally and positively influences college rankings, which can increase enrollment and funding opportunities.

The impact of R1 status extends far beyond the university's campus. States with R1 institutions gain a competitive edge, attracting businesses and industries that value research and innovation. Given the U of I's land-grant mission and statewide presence, this, in turn, creates jobs, boosts the economy and enhances the state's reputation as a hub for progress and discovery. We're proud to serve the state of Idaho and our status as an R1 institution only enhances our ability to produce research that matters.

We continue to tell the story of how the U of I of I adds value to the state of Idaho. We outperform our regional peers in earned media, placing our faculty as subject matter experts to comment on the news of the day or to discuss groundbreaking research conducted at the U of I. In 2024, the U of I earned 50% of all share of voice – a key earned media metric — compared to all other Idaho colleges and universities.

We also excel at reaching our potential students. According to Rivals IQ we ranked No. 11 in the country for social media engagement last year. We deliver an award-winning welcome packet to admitted students and some of the most effective digital marketing in the country. We also launched our dinner table conversation ad to reach parents and other stakeholders that may not utilize social media to a great extent. The ad is focused on explaining what our students are learning and how it helps Idaho.

We appreciate the support of our regents over these past few years. Our success is directly tied to your advice, counsel and advocating on our behalf. We're committed to continue serving our students and advancing research solutions to better our state and our nation.

President Scott Green

student GEMS

$100M IN GRANTS

for biomedical research – through INBRE – has been distributed through U of I to students and faculty at public and private colleges and universities in Idaho in the last 25 years.

75,000

Idaho youth took part in 4-H activities delivered through UI Extension last year, gaining leadership and life skills.

Of the 310 public colleges and universities in the West, with a total enrollment of more than 3.2 million students, University of Idaho is:

BEST COLLEGES U.S.News & WORLD REPORT BEST VALUE SCHOOLS 2025

NO.1 BEST VALUE

Public University in the **West**

– U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

For THE FIFTH year in a row

54 U OF I RESEARCHERS

are top in their field according to Stanford/Elsevier — more than all other Idaho research institutions and Idaho National Lab combined.

Idaho youth were introduced to hands-on science learning at the McCall Outdoor Science School in the last year.

in research expenditures last year, more than all other Idaho research institutions combined.

93 U OF I MEDICAL STUDENTS

experienced rural medicine through the Rural Underserved Opportunities Program in the past five years.

30

MILITARY OFFICERS,

on average, are commissioned each year at U of I to help defend our nation.

U of I welcomed the largest freshman class in its history in Fall 2024, with

2,025

first time students, an 8.3% increase from Fall 2023.

MISSION FULFILLMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2019, we took a fresh look at the university's progress on the 10-year strategic plan (2016-2025) and its strength to drive mission fulfillment. Facing a budget deficit and enrollment challenges, the university created a sustainable financial model to guide future university decisions. The result was the Vandal Hybrid Financial Model, developed using four guiding principles:

- Mission alignment
- Transparency
- Agility and adaptability
- Incentive Based.

The model drives our successful financial stability and future program development. We continue to use the model to reallocate current year funds and award new revenues based on the guiding principles above.

Under President Green's leadership, three strategic initiatives or pillars were identified in 2020 as the foundation for mission fulfillment:

1. Supporting student success
2. Prioritizing research
3. Telling the story of our institution

To chart the university's next phase of growth, Huron Consulting Group was engaged in Fall 2024 to facilitate the development of the 2025-2030 strategic plan. This new plan will articulate a bold, shared vision anchored in four to five transformative pillars.

As of this report, the university has gathered data, assessed the higher education landscape, and fostered a shared understanding of the U of I's position through interviews, focus groups and surveys involving students, faculty, staff, alumni, industry leaders, the Idaho Board of Regents and elected officials.

Through an iterative process that is ongoing, five potential pillars have emerged. Each pillar is aimed at strengthening the university's impact:

- Transforming the student experience to drive success
- Evolving educational models to meet learners' needs
- Advancing research that benefits Idaho and our industries
- Strengthening collaboration to prepare Idaho's workforce
- Enhancing operational excellence to support students, faculty, and staff.

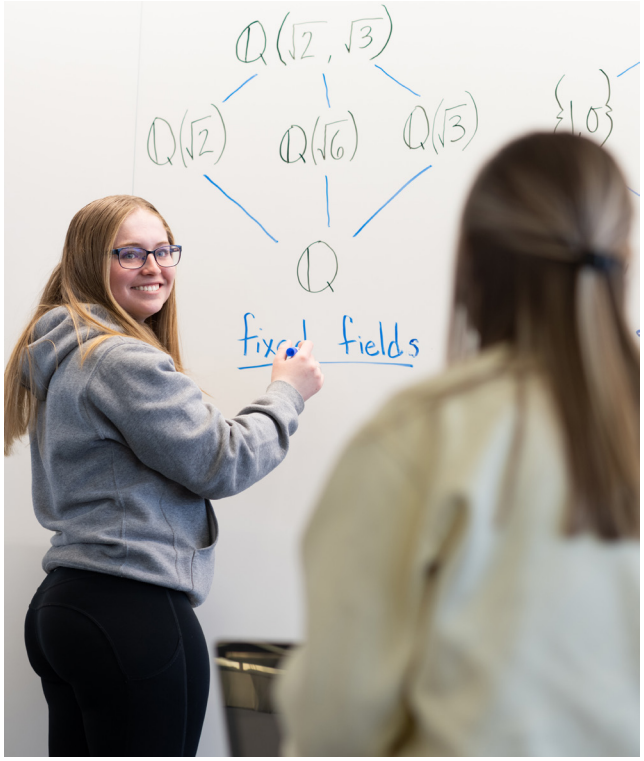
The university is currently identifying initiatives within each pillar to drive progress toward our goals, ensuring a strategic, forward-looking approach to mission fulfillment and institutional success.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

Math 143 redesign

Prior to Spring 2023, Math 143 used an emporium model of instruction, where student learning was achieved not in classroom sessions, but in required computer lab time with the assistance of tutors. While this had been effective in the past, recent increased D, F and withdrawal rates had an outsized impact on retention and graduation rates.

Starting in Spring 2023, more instructional emphasis was placed in the classroom, implementing a hybrid model (some class instruction replacing and thus decreasing lab time) until full classroom instruction (150 minutes/ week) could be implemented in Fall 2024. To accompany this transition, the faculty participated in pedagogical training focused on active learning. In order to assist implementation by the instructors, new class activities were designed around the principles of active learning. New assessments and

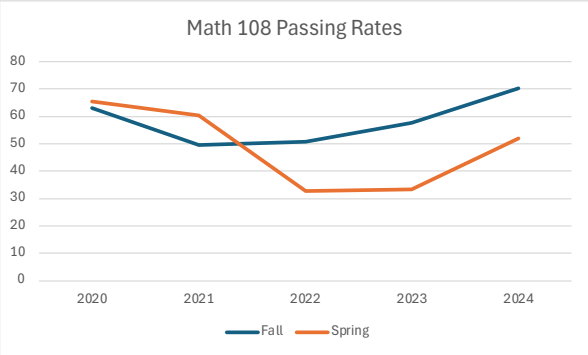


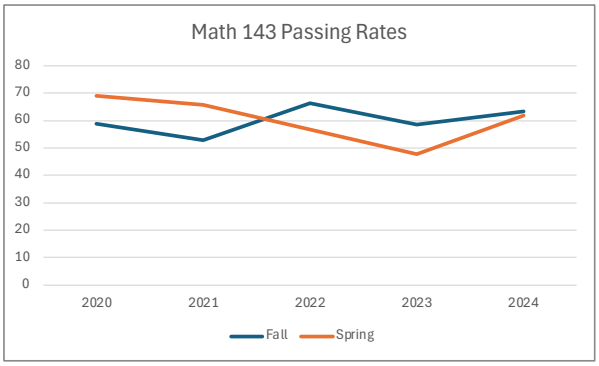
assessment procedures were designed to more carefully monitor student progress, give formative feedback to students, and raise our standards to include conceptual reasoning questions. Finally, decreased class sizes provided the opportunity to restructure course policies to be more student and learning focused.

As shown in the graph below, we have seen improvements in passing rates as we have changed our pedagogy and procedures in Math 143. We are continuing to work on improving the curriculum of the course to better align with educational research on Calculus preparation, the Idaho Content Standards in Mathematics, and the General Education Mathematical Ways of Knowing.

A student who failed Math 143 under the emporium model and is now successfully passing the in-class model:

"The class is now more individual. Both the instruction and the group thinking is beneficial. The other way was a lot of teaching yourself, whereas this is learning together."





Sustainable Solutions Certificate

Newly available to all undergraduate Vandals, the Sustainability Certificate includes a range of courses across many disciplines and provides students with an essential credential for future employment. LinkedIn found that job postings around the world requiring at least one green skill jumped by 22.4% from 2022 to 2023 while the share of workers who have held a green job or list at least one green skill on their LinkedIn profile increased by only 12.3%.

The certificate also caters to the 71% of U of I students who say that sustainability is important to them and the 91% of Vandals who say that the environment is important to them (an 8% increase since 2023).

Students who complete the certificate are better prepared to contribute to an informed citizenry that is creating sustainable solutions for Idaho and beyond. The Sustainability Certificate currently enrolls students from five colleges.

Undergraduate Research Certificate

The University of Idaho's Undergraduate Research Certificate is a transformative opportunity for students to engage in meaningful, hands-on research while gaining a competitive edge in their academic and professional journeys. This program provides structured support, mentorship, and recognition for students who actively contribute to the university's research mission, reinforcing U of I's prestigious Carnegie R1 designation.

The structured nature of the certificate helps demystify the research process, empowering students to see themselves as scholars and active contributors to their fields. Research engagement has been shown to increase student retention and degree completion rates by fostering a sense of belonging, strengthening academic motivation, and providing direct faculty mentorship.

Students pursuing the Undergraduate Research Certificate gain access to invaluable academic opportunities integral to success in graduate education and highly valued by industry partners who require their workforce to think critically.

Vandal Finish

The College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences created the Vandal Finish program for those former students who left after two years, but did not get their degree because we did not offer two-year associate degrees. Vandal Finish helps these students qualify for an associate degree or complete their original degree. In less than 12 months, 340 former students can now add a college degree to their resumes.

Vandal Student-Athletes

Our University of Idaho student-athletes continue to excel both in competition and in the classroom. In 2024, they set a new athletic department record with an average GPA of 3.52, and 104 student-athletes posted a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Vandal athletics strengthens alumni connections and enhances the U of I's national visibility. Our student-athletes not only compete at the highest levels but also achieve remarkable academic success, representing the university with pride.

TELLING OUR STORY

Best Value Public University in the West

#1

BEST COLLEGES
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES
PUBLIC
2025

Ranked #1 Best Value Public University in the West
(5 YEARS IN A ROW)

– U.S. News & World Report (2024)

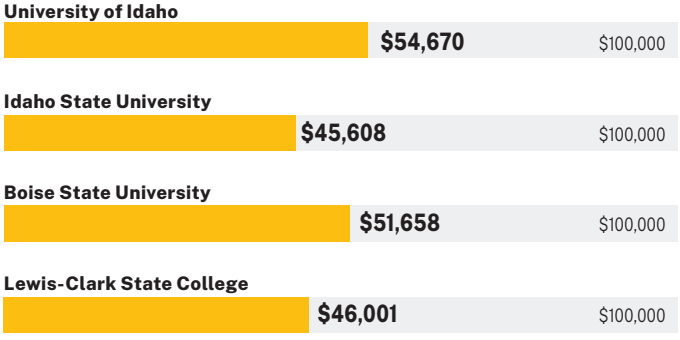
#2 Nationally

(Only behind UNC Chapel Hill)

Median Earnings

4-Year Schools

U.S. Department of Education Score Card
National 4-Year Midpoint $53,747



TOP 6%

U of I's ranking among all public universities on the Top Public School list ahead of regional land-grant peers in Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada.

Record-Setting Freshman Class

Freshman Class
2,025
STUDENTS
(8.3% increase)

Overall Enrollment **12,286**
(3.7% increase)

Idaho Resident Undergraduate Enrollment **+4.9%**

DOCTORAL GROWTH
+10% *(most in U of I history)*

GRADUATE STUDENT GROWTH **+4.2%**

COLLEGE OF LAW
+7.9%
(457 students)

Economic Impact Across Idaho

2.78 Billion
Total Economic Output

CONTRIBUTION TO IDAHO'S ECONOMY
1.58 Billion
IN ADDED GROSS STATE PRODUCT

JOBS SUPPORTED
30,316

State and Local Taxes Contributed
131.1 Million

Alumni Impact

140,525
degrees awarded since U of I's founding

115,000+ Alumni
46.8% live in Idaho

Vandals 11th in Nation for Social Media Engagement

Ranked

#11 Nationally

in 2024 (Rival IQ Social Media Engagement Report)

OUTPERFORMED

University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Marquette

Idaho is Idaho Campaign

Meta (Facebook & Instagram)

1M+ Impressions
375K+ Engagements

YouTube

2.48M Impressions
Nearly 1M Engagements
80% Completion Rate

TV Advertising

60-70 airings per week in Boise, Twin Falls, and Idaho Falls
Aired during NFL Playoffs, Super Bowl pregame, Daytona 500, Grammys, The Bachelor, and CFB National Championship

Reaching Idahoans where they watch!

Campus Visits: A Key Enrollment Driver

4,793

TOTAL VISITORS

Campus Tours

341 daily tours
10 Saturday tours
8 holiday tours

Group Tours

34 group visits
722 prospective students

Special Events

12 major events
(excluding college-specific)

8,254 guests hosted

39,703

OUTREACH CALLS MADE TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!

ZeeMee Growth and Success

Fall 2025 ZeeMee community grew

63% to **3,519 students!**

40% **of 2024 incoming class used ZeeMee**

ZeeMee is a social engagement platform designed to connect prospective and admitted students, providing a dedicated space for students to build community, ask questions, and begin forming relationships prior to arriving on campus.

Awarded **"ZeeMee's Most Creative and Unique Live Events"** and **"ZeeMee's Most Live Events Hosted."**

A game-changer for student engagement!

Vandal Healing Garden built as a lesson and legacy

The Vandal Healing Garden and Memorial, a space dedicated to remembering former students who died while attending U of I, was dedicated in Fall 2024 after a year of planning, design and construction by College of Art and Architecture Design-Build and Landscape Architecture students.

Next to the Physical Education Building (PEB), a looping concrete walkway lined with bright flowers and green trees leads visitors to a large steel memorial pavilion next to alcoves with wooden candleholders.

Students began designing the garden in Fall 2023, taking input and hosting ideation events. That vision came to fruition in Summer 2024, when other students spent the summer working for free to ensure the installation was complete by the start of the fall semester.

“We focused on the senses we use while experiencing a garden, especially one meant to aid with the healing process,” said Emily Stuart, a landscape architecture student from Idaho Falls who spent her senior year on the project. “We all knew we needed a timeless space that captured Vandal energy, meaning our designs needed to be humble, natural and inviting.”

The northern half of the area is the memorial space. It contains a circular steel structure with an open center featuring plantings and a steel panel mosaic sculpture representing all former students who died while attending U of I. A railing along the structure’s eastern edge is inscribed with the names of the King Road homicide victims. The space includes booths where people can leave notes of remembrance in votives that can be placed in custom-built wooden holders.

The southern half of the space is the healing walk, designed for walking or sitting on benches to relax and reflect. The two halves were designed so visitors can choose the areas they want to visit.

At night a large beacon next to Shattuck Arboretum shines a light at night that is visible from the campus walkway next to Idaho Student Union Building, Teaching and Learning Center and Library. Streetlights on the same timer along the corridor between PEB and Memorial Gym guide visitors to the site.

“There’s something really exciting about getting to this point,” said Madailein McLenna, an architecture student who also worked on the project as a senior. “Someday we’re going to be able to look at the memorial and say, ‘We did that’.”

Student's research reveals supply chain, CEO pay insights

Anna Bliss comes from a family of entrepreneurs. Her father is the chief executive officer of a family-owned fishing lure company in Bonners Ferry. Her grandparents started a tree farm. Both provided her with unique insights in starting and running businesses, marketing products and getting them from producer to consumer.

She is the first College of Business and Economics student to earn an undergraduate research grant -- and she earned two.

"I was looking for research opportunities and with the help of a professor received two fellowships to explore topics that are trending right now," Bliss said.

Bliss spent most of Summer '24 on campus, investigating, crunching data and tracking outcomes to learn how companies can improve sales and stay competitive in ever-changing business environments.

She also explored if CEO salaries are commensurate with their company's financial outcomes.

Both awards, valued at over $6,000 were equivalent to having a fulltime summer job, Bliss said.

She started at U of I as a computer science major but found herself more drawn to the strategic and analytical side of business, with goals of one day being a business owner herself.

"I realized that pursuing a business degree aligned better with my interests," she said. "I kept a minor in cybersecurity because I find the field fascinating and constantly advancing."

Bliss said she opted to investigate CEO pay because it is a popular topic. Whether high CEO salaries are justifiable has been disputed for more than a decade.

She analyzed S&P 500 companies by examining their financial data, including balance sheets and income statements. Bliss calculated performance ratios then used regression analysis to test the relationships between these variables.

In addition to the mass merchandise industry, Bliss delved into the effect of supply chain innovation in the airline industry and consumer electronics.

"People often think that research is only for science or engineering, but every major business decision is based on thorough research and analytics," U of I professor Shenghan Xu said. "We were interested in investigating whether operational differences impact various financial measures."

Qualities that make for good researchers in STEM fields also apply to business and economics, Xu said.

What did she learn from her investigations?

"Whether it's the debate on CEO pay or the necessity of innovation, nothing is black and white."

Idaho native finds her roots

Abigail Crawford didn't have a direct connection to agriculture, despite growing up in Kuna. But she wanted to be a veterinarian, so she decided to enroll in agriculture classes in high school to gain experience working with horses and to learn more about veterinary science.

While taking an animal science course, she was encouraged to join FFA. There, she found her true passion — plant science, specifically weed science — that set her on a course to University of Idaho.

"Plants are just amazing. They thrive in situations where sometimes they're not supposed to, like when you find dandelions growing in the cracks in the sidewalk," she said. "Crop science is really cool, but the weeds and how they interact with other plants and their own environment is just fascinating."

During the Idaho FFA Career Development Events in Moscow the summer before her freshman year at U of I, Crawford was put in touch with Stephen Cook, professor and head of the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology. He hired Crawford as a laboratory technician, where she worked for the next four years.

She began by assisting others with their projects, learning how to pin and catalog insects, how to prepare plants for carbon analysis, how to identify insects and forest plants, and how to chop and dissect trees. Her sophomore year she was asked to step in and finish a project for a departing graduate student looking at biological controls — natural enemies such as arthropods, bacteria or fungi — of spotted knapweed, which she worked on independently for the next two years.

The project aimed to determine if there are suitable controls for the highly invasive weed that severely decreases the biological diversity of native plants and reduces soil fertility. Crawford mapped out where and what type of approved biocontrols were being used in northern Idaho to give relevant agencies an idea of what controls are being used.

"I got to dabble in everything which has been really good for learning what I want to do," she said. "I've been given all the experiences I could imagine in that lab."

The experiences in Cook's lab, combined with her coursework, helped Crawford narrow down what she wanted to do with her career. She recently accepted a position as a research technician with the wheat breeding program at the U of I Aberdeen Research and Extension Center.

Non-traditional Vandal gets a fresh start

They say life can be a roller coaster, but prior to going back to school, Gary Banks spent nearly 20 years of his life among roller coasters as a technician on live shows for Silverwood Theme Park in North Idaho.

“I’d been working summers at Silverwood since I was 14,” said Banks, a non-traditional U of I Coeur d’Alene student studying computer science. “In 2021, at 32 years old, I realized that I needed to go back to school to finish my degree to increase my earning potential if I wanted to afford to buy a home in the area.”

Banks had taken computer science courses at U of I in Moscow after he graduated from Timberlake High School in 2007 but came home after a few semesters.

“I loved my time in Moscow, but it wasn’t the right time for me to be in school,” Banks said.

After completing his transfer requirements at North Idaho College through a partnership between NIC and U of I Coeur d’Alene, Banks found himself in the right place at the right time. U of I’s Fresh Start program enabled him to start over with a clean slate academically, which made him eligible for scholarships and other academic programs that require good grades.

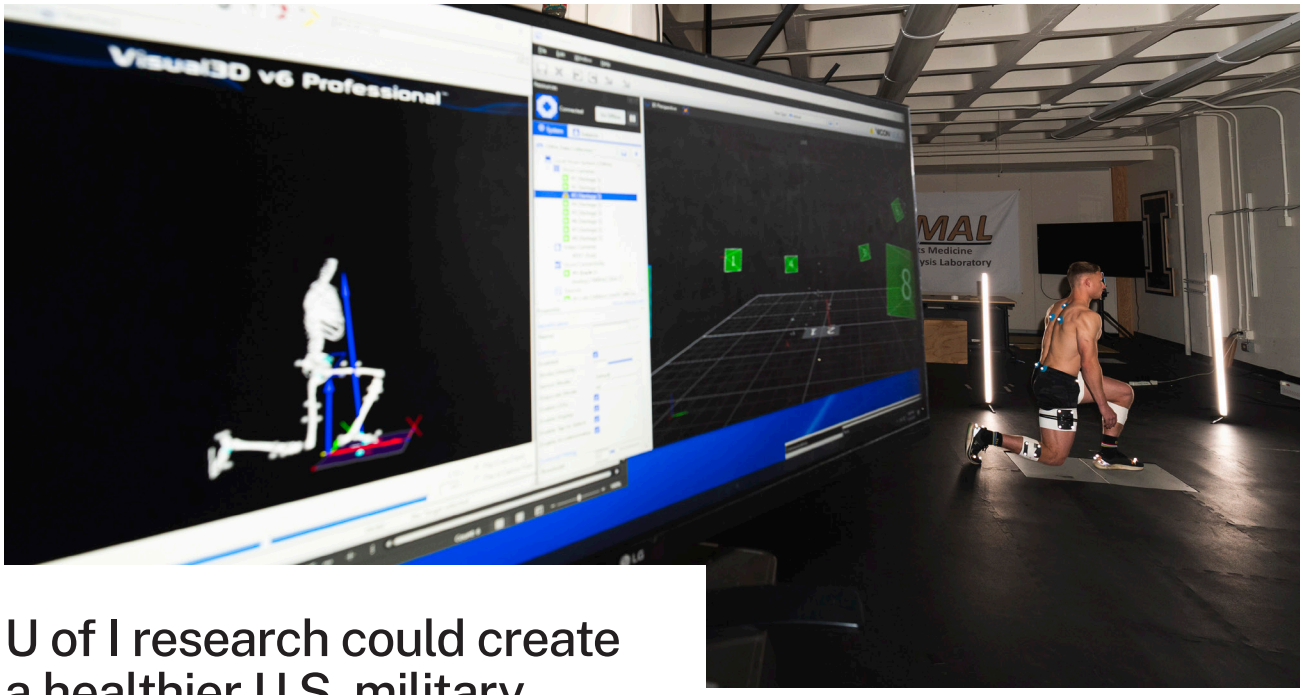
Banks landed a three-month internship with a local plastic injection molding company, H&H Molds, which led to a part-time job in Fall 2024. He created a custom tool for H&H that helps automate a manual process of inserting rubber O-rings into plastic lids.

He then mounted the tool on a robot with an automated camera and a robotic arm.

“This is a work in progress that I’m iterating and improving upon, but it has already been used in production,” Banks said. “It cuts the process time by about 75%.”

Though coming back to school after time away might seem intimidating, Banks said U of I’s computer science faculty encouraged and enabled him to achieve his goals.

“They genuinely want to see us reach our full potential. Our classes are small, which is an advantage because it allows for more personalized attention from instructors and creates a learning environment where everyone feels supported,” Banks said.



U of I research could create a healthier U.S. military

Rafe Richardson wanted to learn more about musculoskeletal injuries while pursuing his dream of becoming a doctor.

Together with Department of Movement Sciences Associate Professor Joshua Bailey, the junior biological engineering major and Air Force ROTC cadet, could help ROTC programs across the country keep their cadets healthier by teaching them how to move more effectively.

“Both the Army and Air Force are employing civilian strength conditioning coaches on some of their bases because they see the value in this type of program,” Bailey said. “Our goal is to get cadets at the ROTC level to focus on this training so they start with a solid understanding of how to stay healthy.”

Bailey and Richardson concluded their first wave of research, where they studied the movement of 50 ROTC cadets.

They spent several months recording and analyzing their movements.

“We look at the way their entire skeleton moves as they land. We’re measuring their ground reaction force — how their feet and legs are interacting with the ground,” Richardson said.

Because military members are constantly in motion, they are susceptible to movement-related injuries. Bailey and Richardson are looking for traits that could predict a cadet’s specific risk factor for injury.

“When their foot hits the ground, we can see exactly how much force they’re exerting,” Richardson said. “We can also see how that force moves up their leg based on their movement patterns. From there, you can calculate how much stress is being put on joints, hips, knees and ankles.”

Richardson and Bailey will soon move on to phase two of their study — intervention with cadets.

Based on self-reported injuries or health issues, the U of I team will use the information they’ve compiled to create profiles for each cadet that gives them suggestions to reduce injury risk.

“These tasks we are doing with the cadets have optimal movement patterns to them,” Bailey said. “Deviations from the optimal movement pattern may indicate either weaknesses or risk factors for injury. We want to show them how to improve their movement patterns, which would then decrease the chance of injury.”

Richardson learned about this project because of his involvement in ROTC, but as someone who has medical school in his sights, he found this project to be the perfect way to combine his passions for the military and the medical world.

Analyzing tree rings opens new avenues for Lewiston student

Maia Cuddy's dad and grandfather were surveyors for logging companies in the Clearwater Forest, and she heard their outdoor tales.

By the time she enrolled in the College of Natural Resources to pursue a degree in environmental science and conservation biology, she admired trees and loved to sojourn in North Idaho's vast forests. She could climb trees or split their wood for campfires, but she had not studied their rings.

The Lewiston native soon learned how to drill and read tree cores in Associate Professor Grant Harley's tree ring lab - part of the College of Science - which led to a summer field experience in Virginia.

"I love dendrochronology, because it offers a deep and interesting story of climate," Cuddy said. "Analyzing tree rings can show years of climate history in specific ecosystems."

The study of dendrochronology uses slim tree cores, removed with a boring instrument, to extract a sample of the tree's growth rings. The rings can tell a researcher a lot about forest history, weather patterns and even sunspots.

At a dendrochronology field school at the edge of the Appalachian Mountains, Cuddy and her colleagues explored the effects of woolly adelgid bugs on eastern hemlock trees. Tree ring samples showed how the aphid-like insects affected hemlock trees, how the trees recovered and the rings provided researchers with patterns that may help predict future outbreaks.

Her weeks in Virginia were followed by a stint in Idaho and Yellowstone National Park where Cuddy and the graduate students she was helping pulled core samples from ancient trees and woody plants.

The experience and skills she acquired have led to a new interest and opened avenues for a new career.

"I really wasn't well versed in dendrochronology," Cuddy said. "The only experience I had from the tree ring lab was scanning cores. I had not collected cores or analyzed them for historical data."

Cuddy flourished at the field school, Harley said, which set her up for additional dendrochronology field work including a stint along the Salmon River, and she traveled to East Yellowstone to help a graduate student with field work.

"After only a semester at U of I, I entered a new world of opportunities," Cuddy said. "I have learned so much in such a short amount of time and have created a network of incredible and inspiring people," she said. "The opportunities just keep coming."

PRIORITIZING RESEARCH

CARNEGIE R1 CLASSIFIED UNIVERSITY

University of Idaho is the first and only Idaho university to join the top research institutions in the United States after earning the designation in the 2025 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. This classification is the gold standard for research excellence, given to less than 4% of all U.S. higher education institutions, and it recognizes the university for "very high research activity" and its transformative contributions to science, innovation and education.

To classify as an R1 institution, universities must have at least $50 million in annual research expenditures and grant at least 70 research doctorates each year. U of I had $135.9 million in research expenditures in Fiscal Year 2023 and awarded 80 research doctorates. Research expenditures surpassed $140 million in 2024.

U of I focused on the goal of becoming R1 when President Green joined the university in 2019. Not only did the university increase its research expenditures since then, it also grew its doctoral programs by 18.4% since 2019, reaching an all-time high of 606 current doctoral students in Fall 2024.

Achieving R1 status unlocks numerous opportunities for U of I, including:

- **More than half of undergraduate students participate in research activities at U of I,** offering them unique hands-on experiences that make them more competitive in the job market. This classification will expand that impact.
- **R1 status enhances the university's reputation locally, nationally and internationally** and positively influences college rankings, which can increase enrollment and funding opportunities.
- **The research U of I does directly benefits the state of Idaho** by working on pressing problems to improve outcomes for cybersecurity, nuclear science, semiconductor and microelectronics industries, as well as those related to natural resources and agriculture.
- Access to research opportunities produces graduates who are **more ready to make a difference in the Idaho workplace.**

POP TALKS

- In October, 2024, the U of I hosted its second annual POP Talks, as eight stellar faculty members discussed the "Power of Possibility" in their respective fields. Hundreds of community members attended for the series of 3-minute lectures. Bethaney Fehrenkamp, a clinical assistant professor of immunology, took home the top prize with her presentation about the connections among sleep, circadian rhythms and their effects on breast milk production and infant health.

U of I team aims to revolutionize affordable housing with 3D-printed wood waste

University of Idaho is developing technology to make housing more affordable nationwide by using Idaho wood waste to make one of the most sustainable building construction materials on the market. They're combining sawdust and other wood byproducts with bio-based glue to create a medium for 3D-printing buildings and stackable bricks.

"We're trying to change the way houses are built in the United States," said Michael Maughan, associate professor in mechanical engineering. "It's too expensive, it takes too long, and we think we can do it with a lot less money, labor and injuries for construction workers."

The interdisciplinary project, known as PrinTimber, is expected to positively impact Idaho's fast-growing construction industry. The colleges of Engineering, Natural Resources and Art and Architecture are partnering with Auburn University on the project.

Nationally, U.S. lumber manufacturing generates 84million tons of sawmill dust and waste per year.

"Only about 40% of a tree is converted into lumber," Maughan said. "That means there's a lot of waste that's either left in the forest or used for lower-value products."

The team wants to create a plant-based resin to bond the wood fibers together, with the goal of 3D printing a house. If they succeed, the new construction material will be completely bio- based, as wood is already a renewable natural resource.

3D printing the wood and resin mixture takes several hours, so graduate students on the PrinTimber team started thinking of ways to test the material without putting it through the printer.

U of I graduate students devised a stackable brick, known as the TechnoLog, formed with the same material used in the 3D printing process.

Compressed into a brick shape and allowed to cure, this material is showing promise as a second construction method.

"With the PrinTimber project, we're really hoping to address the needs at every level and make a meaningful impact," Associate Professor Randy Teal said. "The TechnoLog will hopefully provide an easy-to-use, low-tech product that allows for an easy entry point for use within the construction industry."

Idaho Heritage Project introduces future lawyers to rural opportunities

Residents of Camas, Clark and Lincoln counties, all in rural Idaho, face a looming legal crisis — as of summer 2024, no lawyers practice within their borders.

Their situation is just part of a not-so-pretty picture across the state — half of Idaho's 44 counties have 10 or fewer lawyers, including public sector attorneys who do not practice privately. A shortage of lawyers means Idaho residents with legal issues might have to pay for lawyers to travel to represent them, or in some cases, end up representing themselves.

University of Idaho's College of Law is working to address the problem by introducing future law school graduates to these rural opportunities through the Idaho Heritage Project. Its Rural Scholarship Fund provides financial support for summer internships in small communities throughout Idaho.

Not only is there a need for lawyers in rural Idaho communities, but in many cases, for the right candidate, living and working in a small town can make for a perfect match.

"We know there is a need in our more rural communities and we want to expose our students to the possibilities of practicing law in those areas," said Aviva Abramovsky, dean of Law.

Jarrett Broughton '23 joined a law firm in Post Falls after he graduated from Idaho Law, and it was an Idaho Heritage Project internship that introduced him to his future employer.

During his time in Post Falls, Broughton learned how crucial it is for smaller towns to have access to lawyers. He spent time assisting clients as far away as Bonners Ferry because they couldn't find anyone else to help.

"A lot of people have substantial legal issues but can't find representation, so they either represent themselves or have to pay an attorney to travel back and forth to come to court for them," he said.

Broughton also said establishing relationships is important because you don't have the anonymity that often comes with working in a larger metropolitan area.

"You often have to work with the same people day after day — judges, opposing counsel and others," he said. "It's not like a big city where you likely won't run into anyone you work with after hours."

Student's research yields optimal virtual fence ear tag for cattle

Emma Macon enjoyed grasslands long before she enrolled at University of Idaho.

"My sister and I spent a lot of time in the grasslands with my dad who we called a grass geek because he knew the names of all the plants," she said. "So, I wanted a job working outdoors and University of Idaho has a reputation for getting students the skills they need to do that."

She began working with Professor Karen Launchbaugh at the university's Rangeland Center where virtual fence technology is an ongoing project.

Standard barbed wire fencing is costly to maintain and injurious to livestock, people and wild animals including elk and deer. It also fragments landscapes thereby disrupting wildlife migration patterns. Scientists are developing cost-effective virtual — or invisible boundary — fences for better land management and wildlife conservation.

Macon spent hours weighing prototype ear tags made of hard plastic that would contain radio receivers that used electric shocks to train cows to stay within boundaries.

"There were a lot of issues," Macon said. "We needed to know the size and weight of a plastic ear tag that didn't bother cattle and impede their behavior or their hearing, and the mobility of the ear."

Working with U of I's Beef Center on the Moscow campus, Macon tagged cattle and observed their behavior, collecting and narrowing down data to arrive at the optimal and most efficient ear tag size.

Macon's virtual fence research is in conjunction with peers in the College of Natural Resources who are developing radio fences, as opposed to the more standard GPS-based models.

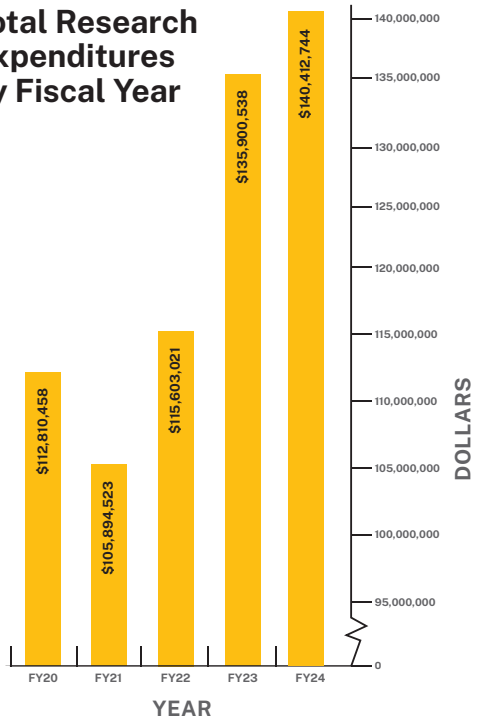
The GPS virtual fence technology being developed uses collars weighted with batteries, Macon said. Using ear tags and radio beacons make the fence technology low weight and low cost. In addition, GPS virtual fences are accurate to within about 10 yards, Launchbaugh said, while the radio tags are accurate to within a few feet.

"Emma's project is so critical," Launchbaugh said. "Her work confirmed we're on the right path."

FY24 Research Activity and Expenditures

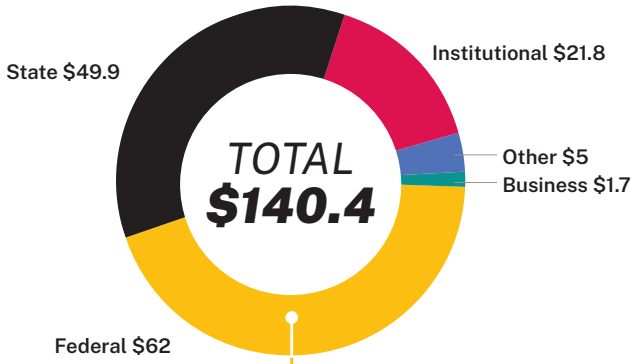
Expenditures are actual dollars spent on research as a measure of research activity. Research activity is the number of proposals and dollars awarded, not all of which is spent at the time of the report.

Total Research Expenditures by Fiscal Year



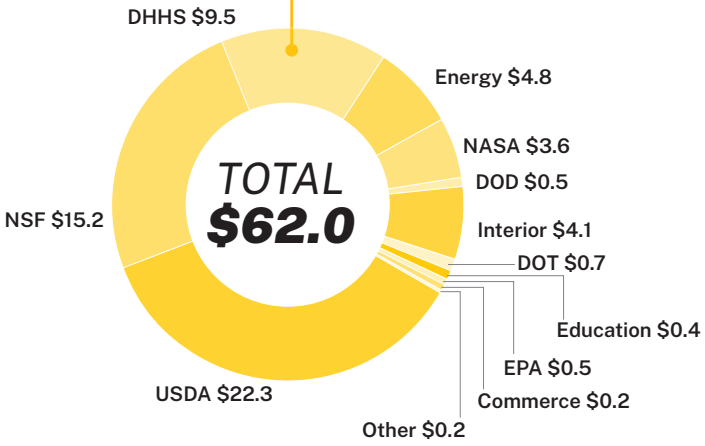
Total Research Expenditures in FY24 by Funding Source

(Dollars in Millions)



Portion of Federal Research Expenditures by Sponsoring Agency

(Dollars in Millions)



Summary of Sponsored Proposals & Awards Activity in FY24

SPONSORED PROJECTS	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Proposals Submitted	813	$297,822,548

AWARDS RECEIVED	NUMBER	AMOUNT
New Awards	401	$80,562,794
Other Actions	243	$42,038,642
TOTAL AWARDS	**644**	**$122,601,436**

FY 24 STATS

$140.4 M in research expenditures

401 new awards

16 invention disclosures

6 new licenses

Research Efficiency

The U of I was awarded a $4.5 million grant in early 2025 that will leverage generative artificial intelligence to streamline research administration at the university.

Sarah Martonick, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, is the principal investigator on the grant from the National Science Foundation's GRANTED program. The program's goal is to enhance the U.S. research enterprise by improving administration support infrastructure, increasing service capacity and broadening participation by developing institutions across the national research landscape.

Every grant earned by a university entails a lot of paperwork, ranging from accounting and payment information to human and animal subject procedures. Information from granting agencies must be transferred to the university's computing system, currently done by employees in research management. Martonick wants to create artificial intelligence programs to transfer that information from the granting agency documents to the university system quickly and accurately.

"I believe this project will transform the entire field and allow universities to better meet compliance requirements and improve efficiencies," said Chris Nomura, vice president of U of I's Office of Research and Economic Development. "The new AI tools should allow research administrators, often an overworked field, to reduce their time spent on repetitive, monotonous tasks and free up time for them to spend on more interesting, thoughtful projects."

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY24

Vandal Giving Day 2024 raised $1.13 million in just 1,889 minutes. During this time, generous Vandals made more than 2,300 gifts to support scholarships, programs and unique outdoor "living labs" such as the McCall Field Campus and Taylor Wilderness Research Station.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Kent Valley '62 donated $1 million to the future Joint Military Science and Veteran Services Building. A renovation project will transform the former Targhee Hall into the central home for U of I's U.S. Navy and Marine Corps ROTC, U.S. Air Force and Space Force ROTC, and General James F. Amos Veterans Center. Serving about 200 cadets and midshipmen, and 350 veterans and family members annually, the facility will provide training opportunities, student-to-student and enlisted-to-officer mentoring, and injury and rehabilitation services.

Kuna-based CS Beef Packers, LLC made a gift of $1 million to the Meat Science and Innovation Center Honoring Ron Richard, which is currently under construction on the U of I Moscow campus. When it opens later in 2025, the center will deliver industry-leading research and hands-on learning into harvesting, processing, packaging, storage and consumption of meat products. It will also become the new home for Vandal Brand Meats with opportunities for greater retail sales and community education activities.

Donors established **45 new endowments in Fiscal Year 2024** (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024), including **four scholarship endowments to support of U of I's high-achieving student-athletes** in swimming and diving, football and women's basketball. The families and individuals who together gave more than $126,000 to these endowments will help Vandals succeed in the classroom, in competition and in their communities for generations to come.

BRAVE. BOLD. UNSTOPPABLE. CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM

The largest fundraising campaign in U of I history officially ends on Dec. 31, 2025. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2024, nearly 37,000 donors are making a visible impact across the entire university through their unprecedented generosity:

- **$114 million for scholarships**
- **$240 million for research and faculty support**
- **$90 million for facilities, campus enhancements and community outreach**

Of the more than 150,000 gifts received so far, 85% have been $500 or less, demonstrating that every gift matters for Idaho's students, communities and industries.

From now through the end of 2025, the Brave. Bold. Unstoppable. campaign seeks to unlock even greater impact through the power of Vandal generosity.

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY24

My family and I are incredibly grateful for my ongoing scholarship support. Completing a master's degree and a doctorate (almost!) after being a full-time parent at home with my children for 12 years was a HUGE transition. Each time I received financial support, it made me feel like even more people were in my corner, cheering me on through it all!

Amanda Palmer, Movement Sciences '25

Scholarship support means a lot to me and a lot of other students, especially in engineering, where trying to balance the course load with a job can sometimes feel impossible. This funding helps ensure I can focus on my studies and devote more time to helping with the Design.Build.Fly club. It also allowed me the flexibility to mentor other students studying computer-aided design. After I finish my bachelor's degree, I plan on going to grad school in aerospace engineering. From there, I want to design and create the technology that will shape tomorrow's future.

Cody Conger, Mechanical Engineering '26

I am the first in my family to go to a higher education institution and that means a lot to not only my parents and grandparents, but also to my younger siblings and cousins. I am gladly taking a step into the unknown so that they have an idea of where to start. So, thank you for this opportunity to make a good change.

Karina Villa, Business Economics '26

Because of my scholarships, I have been able to work in the anthropology labs since January 2023 and conduct a directed study on my own (with faculty mentorship). Without donor support, I would not be able to contribute to the fulfillment of anthropology/archaeology in the lives of the anthropology graduate students, the faculty or the university itself.

Bennett Hart, Anthropology '26

As an out-of-state student, I am proud to say that I have absolutely fallen in love with the state of Idaho. School can be so expensive, but thanks to donors and scholarships, I am able to attend and truly flourish and enjoy my life here. Venturing to Idaho has been one of the best choices I have ever made and with the financial help I am receiving, I can continue this journey. I love to learn, and the U of I really gives me the best environment to do just that.

Kyla Gurkowski, Psychology and Criminology '28

Your support allows me to continue to apply myself to my academics while minimizing the distraction of financial needs. I have been more present for my family. I struggled balancing my duties to my family, commuting from Bonners Ferry to Moscow and working as a preschool teacher in Sandpoint. These scholarships give me the breathing room to focus on family and school. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity by finishing my education at the top of my game and becoming a quality teacher. Thank you for seeing my potential and supporting my future.

Ambur Robbins, Early Childhood Education with Special Education blended certificate '26

The scholarships I received melted away more stress than anyone can ever know. I had to choose working over having a social life during high school so that I could afford to attend U of I. When I left home, I didn't really have anyone to say goodbye to, but when I arrived on campus, I got the biggest hellos! Later this year, I take a short study abroad trip and, without this scholarship, going on my two-week trip would absolutely not be possible. I have never been able to travel in a vacation setting (the farthest I've been from home is Nebraska), so I am so excited to be able to attend a trip to Europe.

Lauren Geibel, Marketing '27

BUILDING OUR FOUNDATION

Deep Soil Ecotron Laboratory

In Moscow, the U of I is building the Deep Soil Ecotron Laboratory. This one-of-a-kind facility will help researchers study various soil types down to 3 meters — the greatest depth of any research facility in the world. This research will have major implications for soil health, water quality, carbon capture and more. The first of 24 stainless steel eco-units arrived on campus last summer and the facility is expected to be fully operational by 2026.

Campus Housing Project

Upgrades to the University of Idaho campus are underway this spring as we strive to meet demand and recruit talented graduate students. After growing enrollment for eight straight semesters and building the U of I research enterprise to record levels, investing in our campus infrastructure is paramount.

The southeast side of campus is transforming. Many of the apartments that were long overdue for replacement were demolished and new housing will be dedicated for student-family housing and graduate student housing.

Phase two of the project focuses on upgrades to undergraduate housing. In the summer, work will begin on upgrades to one wing of the Wallace Residence Center as well as one third of Theophilus Tower. The undergraduate housing phase will be completed one wing at a time so that the residence halls can remain open as the work is done.

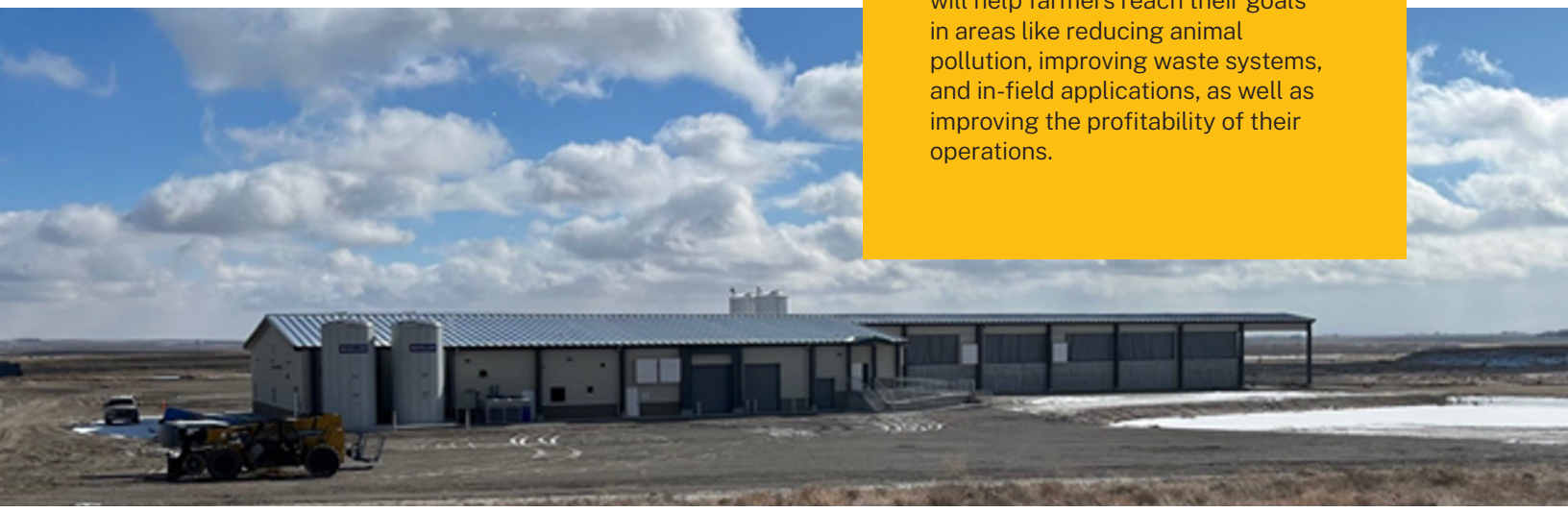
Barring delays, the entire housing project should be completed in 2027.

Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment

The University of Idaho is collaborating with the Idaho Dairyman's Association and partners around the state to build the country's largest research dairy in the Magic Valley.

Idaho's dairy industry is the third largest in the nation, with receipts of more than $3.1 billion dollars each year. The Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment — CAFE — will provide space for research, experiments, teaching, workforce training and a robotic, rotary milking parlor. The dairy and experimental farm will produce technological and process solutions at scale to help the industry grow and yield a workforce with the most advanced knowledge in the country.

Construction is well underway at CAFE and we expect to start managing animals on site in early 2026. Our research and innovation will help farmers reach their goals in areas like reducing animal pollution, improving waste systems, and in-field applications, as well as improving the profitability of their operations.



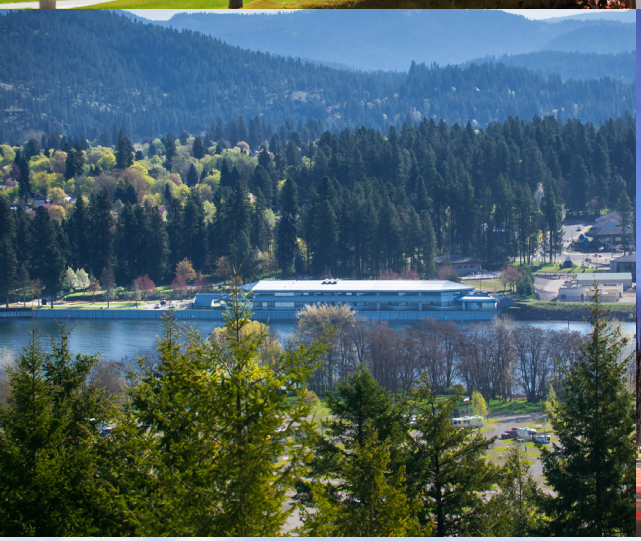
Meat Science Center

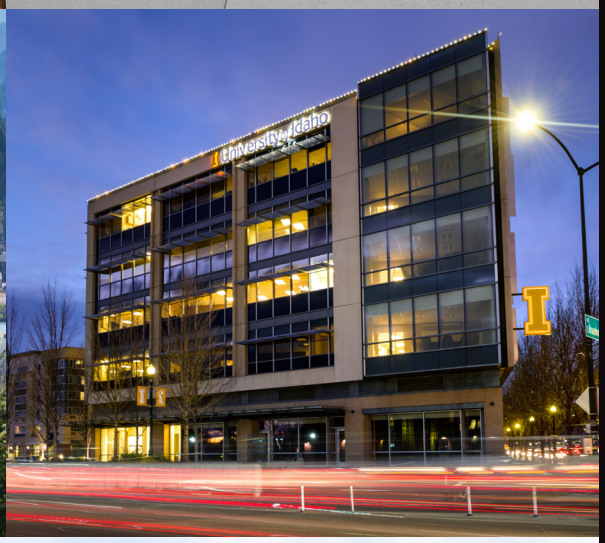
On the west side of the Moscow campus, the Meat Science Innovation Center is on track to open in the fall of 2025. The new space will offer state-of-the-art teaching and research space, along with a new home for Vandal Brand Meats. The center garnered support from industry partners and private donors, who see the great need for workforce training and advancements in research in meat science. Employment of agricultural and food scientists is expected to grow 6% over the next decade. The field includes a wide range of well-paid positions and the U of I program's job placement rate is 100%.


University of Idaho
2023

CONCLUSION

While delivering award-winning value for students, the University of Idaho continues to elevate its research enterprise for the benefit of our state. Our designation as Idaho's first R1 research institution increases opportunities for all students and reinforces our commitment to providing practical solutions to the state's toughest challenges. As we plan for the future, the focus remains on supporting student success through evolving educational models, while advancing research and meeting the needs of our state's workforce. The U of I will continue to deliver on its land grant mission, providing our citizens access and opportunity as Idaho's R1 university.





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