Ensuring an Exceptional Experience

Offering practical, global and leadership experiences to shape well-rounded citizens and critical thinkers.

- 75 new faculty hired for Fall 2016, part of a record 2,000 total faculty
- 8 consecutive years of record enrollment; nearly half of undergraduates are pursuing degrees in STEM disciplines
- The number of women studying in STEM fields has increased 46% since 2010, and represents 34% of total STEM enrollment
- Investments to enhance students’ experience, including residence facilities, advising, testing centers, and student health services
- Biosciences facilities project will dramatically expand biology teaching labs, and provide state-of-the-art classrooms, research labs
- Student Innovation Center, to break ground in 2017, will provide “maker spaces” and foster interdisciplinary collaborations
- Multiple classroom improvement projects, with a focus on pedagogical and technology upgrades to general university classrooms
- Predictive advising analytics was implemented campus wide in 2016 to improve retention and graduation rates for at-risk students
- New Co-curricular Transcript will help students track high-impact educational activities such as internships, campus leadership roles

Addressing Local and Global Challenges

Iowa State research addresses society’s most pressing needs.

- A record $425.8 million in external funding in FY2016; research awards up 12%, to $252.5 million, including five-year highs from industry, nonprofits, and the National Science Foundation (NSF)
- The Presidential Initiative for Interdisciplinary Research has led to $437 million in grant applications, and $43 million in new funding; current projects include using big data to develop new treatments for Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, rapidly identify swine influenza, and create sustainable cities
- Iowa State recently completed a joint construction project with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Ames Laboratory for a $10 million Sensitive Instrumentation Facility
- The Ames Laboratory was selected to lead CaloriCool, a $40 million DOE research consortium to develop innovative cooling technologies
- A $2 million NSF award will help transform teaching and learning approaches in electrical and computer engineering
- Scholarly and creative works in the University Library’s Digital Repository have been downloaded more than 7.4 million times since 2012. Among universities in the Digital Commons Network, Iowa State’s open-access repository is the largest contributor in the engineering, life sciences, and medicine and health categories; the second largest contributor in business, and physical sciences and mathematics; and third in arts and humanities

Iowa State was re-accredited in 2015 for a new 10-year period by the Higher Learning Commission. The university has been continuously accredited by the Commission and its predecessor organization for 100 years.

Diane Birt, Distinguished Professor of Food Science and Human Nutrition, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2015, recognizing 40 years of research on topics such as the relationship between diet and cancer, and the investigation of plant components that may help prevent disease. She is the second Iowa State faculty member to be elected to the Academy of Medicine.
Serving Iowans

Improving the quality of life for all Iowans through services and programs dedicated to communities and economic development.

- Iowa State’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory continues to be top-ranked center, nationally. Its caseload has doubled in the last five years to more than 1.5 million tests, annually.
- Iowa State’s Research Park now contains 600,000 square feet of building space, serving more than 70 tenants and 1,700 staff.
- 1,561 businesses from 95 Iowa counties worked with the Center for Industrial Research and Service in 2015, generating $424 million in total economic impact, and adding or retaining 5,400 jobs.
- The Small Business Development Center worked with more than 3,100 clients in FY2015, helping start 322 new businesses, add 1,580 jobs, increase sales by $62.7 million, and raise $62.5 million in capital.
- ISU Extension and Outreach serves more than one million Iowans annually through its youth and community programs.
- Iowa State’s 2015 bachelor’s graduates enjoyed an overall 95% placement rate within six months of graduation; of those who were employed, 63% of Iowa students, 24% of nonresidents, and 28% of international students remained in Iowa to begin their careers.
- Master’s and Ph.D. graduates enjoyed 96% and 97% placement rates, respectively. Of Master’s graduates who were employed after graduation, 47% are employed in Iowa, including 82% of Business graduates and 68% of Human Sciences graduates.

Serving Diverse Students, Faculty & Staff

Iowa State offers a safe and welcoming campus environment.

- Average student debt has declined 14% since 2006, to $27,571, thanks in part to Student Loan Education Office, mandatory financial counseling for borrowers, and increased focus on scholarships with through the ISU Foundation Moving Students Forward campaign.
- ISU 4U Promise enrolled its second cohort of 5th grade students from King and Moulton elementary schools in Des Moines. The program, which provides scholarships for low-income and racial and ethnic minority students has received $2 million in funding.
- Record U.S. multicultural and international enrollment in Fall 2016 of 8,748 students (24% of student body). Iowa State also set a record with first-year multicultural enrollment of 946 students.
- An inclusive classroom workshop - developed by faculty, staff and students - helps foster welcoming, positive learning environments.
- Iowa State recently hired a vice president for diversity and inclusion, as well as coordinators focused on the experiences and concerns of Latino(a) and LGBTQIA+ students.
- ISU Police expanded its safety escort program, including an additional vehicle and a mobile app, and hired three multicultural liaison officers who work with multicultural student groups.
- Juntos: Together for a Better Education, a partnership between the Department of Human Development and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach, serves Latino(a) youth and parents through workshops focused on academic success and exploring higher education.

Helping Iowa Grow

The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities named Iowa State one of only 54 Innovation and Economic Prosperity Universities. The designation reflects our history of, and commitment to, economic development, including such items as the CyBiz Lab, Cultivation Corridor, ISU Research Park, and initiatives of ISU Extension and Outreach.

Ajay Nair, assistant professor of horticulture, travels the state to help Iowa vegetable growers improve their operations. Nair’s work on behalf of Iowans includes projects to develop better tomato grafting techniques, using high tunnels to control growing environments, and taking advantage of cover crops to strengthen soil and reduce erosion.
Charting the Course Forward

2017-2022 Strategic Plan brings Iowa State’s mission to life.

- 8-month planning process launched by President Steven Leath in 2015, and completed in tandem with the Board of Regents and Iowa State University Foundation strategic plans
- Fiscal year implementation to better align strategic planning and budget priorities
- More than 100 students, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders served on committees that drafted portions of the plan; open forums were also held to encourage feedback from campus community
- Various actions and performance metrics to measure progress, and ensure alignment with university resources
- The new plan may be accessed/viewed at: http://www.strategicplan.iastate.edu

Thematic highlights of the new plan:

- Increasing retention and graduation rates for all students, while closing gaps in student success based on race, gender and income
- Focus on high-impact educational activities such as learning communities, Study Abroad, Honors Program, internships, student research projects, capstone projects, and service learning opportunities
- Increase the number of students engaged in activities that benefit Iowa’s public, private, and non-profit sectors
- Continuing to drive down student debt through education and counseling, and by generating external funding for student scholarship programs
- Enhance efforts to recruit, hire, and retain diverse employees, recruit diverse students, and promote inclusion both on and off campus
- Growing the impact and scope of Iowa State’s graduate programs
- Diversifying research funding, both among federal and state funders, as well as from industry, foundations, and other public/private sources
- Increased faculty hiring, including Presidential High Impact Hires program to support top faculty in key program areas
- Modernizing research infrastructure
- Expanding the impact of economic development programs, including technology transfer for student and faculty discoveries, and support for start-up activities
- Continue to expand Iowa State University Extension and Outreach programming in all 99 Iowa counties, including focused programs in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, community, families, youth, and economic development; increasing participation among diverse and under-represented Iowans; and supporting minority owned businesses

Mission & Vision

Mission: Create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.

Vision: Iowa State University will lead the world in advancing the land-grant ideals of putting science, technology, and human creativity to work.

2017-2022 Strategic Plan Goals

Goal 1: Ensure access to the Iowa State University experience - including an exceptional education offering practical, global, and leadership experiences that shape the well-rounded citizens and informed critical thinkers needed in the 21st century.

Goal 2: Enhance the University’s research profile by conducting high impact research that addresses the grand challenges of the 21st century.

Goal 3: Improve the quality of life for all Iowans through services and programs dedicated to economic development and the promotion of healthy communities, people, and environments.

Goal 4: Continue to enhance and cultivate the ISU Experience where faculty, staff, students, and visitors are safe and feel welcomed, supported, included, and valued by the University and each other.