Goal 1: Ensure Access to the ISU Experience

Provide an exceptional education offering practical, global, and leadership experiences that shape the well-rounded citizens and informed critical thinkers needed in the 21st century.

- Iowa State’s 2018 bachelor’s graduates enjoyed an overall 95% placement rate within six months of graduation; of those who were employed, 61% of resident students, 22% of nonresidents, and 25% of international students remained in Iowa to begin their careers. Master’s and Ph.D. graduates enjoyed 97% and 96% placement rates, respectively, and 100% of veterinary medicine graduates reported employment within six months of graduation.
- Iowa State is narrowing the “achievement gap” in retention and graduation rates for several student populations, including first-generation, low-income, and multicultural students, as well as veterans.
- Iowa State students earned numerous prestigious awards in FY2019, including a Rhodes Scholar, four Goldwater Scholars, two Udall Scholars, a Fulbright Scholar, and three National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships.
- Iowa State continues to promote access and affordability for Iowans. Fall 2019 enrollment includes nearly 5,000 domestic multicultural students, who represent a record 15% of the student body, as well as 6,500 undergraduate first-generation students. The incoming class of 2023 set new records for grade point average, class rank, and percent of students in the top 10% of their high school graduating class.

Goal 2: Enhance the University’s Research Profile

Conduct high impact research that addresses the grand challenges of the 21st century.

- An institution-wide commitment to transformative interdisciplinary research has helped Iowa State make progress in addressing society’s grand challenges, and has positioned the university to play a leadership role in the State of Iowa’s biosciences-focused economic development initiatives.
- In collaboration with the Iowa Innovation Corporation, Iowa State is investing initial legislative funding to create leading programs in Biobased Chemicals and Products, Precision and Digital Agriculture, and Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics.
- Researchers in the Nanovaccine Institute earned $5.6 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health to develop universal influenza vaccines that protect against a wide range of flu strains, but do not require refrigeration.
- Researchers are working with Early Childhood Iowa to develop an integrated administrative data system for policy analysis to support care and education for young children and their families. This work is supported by a $1 million grant from the Iowa Department of Management.
- The National Science Foundation granted prestigious CAREER awards to seven early career faculty members to support research projects ranging from ultrathin semiconductor materials, to building machine-learning techniques, and improving electric power networks.
Goal 3: Improve the Quality of Life for All Iowans

Provide services and programs dedicated to economic development and the promotion of healthy communities, people, and environments.

- The Center for Industrial Research and Service served 1,736 Iowa businesses from 96 counties, helping to create or retain nearly 4,500 jobs, and generating more than $419 million in total economic impact.
- Researchers submitted 165 disclosures of intellectual property, filed 98 new patent applications, and received 32 patents last year. ISU technologies resulted in 46 license and option agreements worldwide (25 in Iowa) and provided the basis for four new Iowa startup companies; 155 license/option agreements are currently yielding income; ISU was ranked 69th among the top 100 universities worldwide granted U.S. patents in 2017.
- Students gained valuable professional experience while making contributions to Iowa companies. Career services offices documented 2,600 ISU interns who were employed by more than 1,000 different Iowa employers in 276 communities in 92 counties.
- Iowa is the second leading state in red meat production. ISU Extension and Outreach provided cutting-edge education on meat processing and food safety technologies for 1,447 individuals from small and large Iowa companies. These programs resulted in a reported economic impact of $634,000 in retained or increased sales, $285,000 in cost savings, and $1.3 million in increased investment.
- ISU Extension and Outreach community development specialists helped 27 minority owned businesses start or improve their businesses last year. The Iowa Retail Initiative provided coaching, training, and technical assistance to 26 retail leaders in 8 communities.

Goal 4: Enhance and Cultivate the ISU Experience

Create an environment where faculty, staff, students, and visitors are safe and feel welcomed, supported, included, and valued by the university and each other.

- The Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Environmental Health & Safety, Facilities Planning and Management, Live Green!, Student Wellness, and ISU WellBeing created the Campus WellBeing Leadership Alliance to align priorities and mobilize action around wellbeing at Iowa State.
- A new faculty fellow was appointed to assess and develop initiatives around diversity, equity, and inclusion for faculty.
- ISU Dining educated more than 250 staff on ethnic and cultural foods to help ensure meal offerings and cultural interactions are well-informed.
- Iowa State’s Police Department added a mental health advocate and therapy dog to assist with outreach and mental health efforts, and continues to recruit bilingual officers, and officers from diverse backgrounds.
- Multicultural liaison officers from several of Iowa State’s academic colleges, in collaboration with Deere & Company, created the ISU/John Deere Emerging Leaders Program to promote leadership development and job shadow experiences for multicultural scholars.
- The Department of Mathematics provides ongoing support for student veterans through initiatives such as Math Boot Camp and Calc Platoon, a pilot program in which students are incentivized to receive additional calculus tutoring.
- Regional directors in County Services provided training on diversity and Iowa’s changing demographics to 450 county ISU Extension and Outreach employees.