

WORLD CLASS IDAHO FOCUSED

ANNUAL REPORT | APRIL 2024



NO. 1
BEST VALUE
Public University
in the West



University
of Idaho



WORLD CLASS IDAHO FOCUSED

The University of Idaho elevates students and generates innovative research that fuels our state's economy.

It is our mission to build on our rich traditions of access and outreach as Idaho's land grant institution. We educate Idaho's future leaders and disseminate our research to support residents in each of the state's 44 counties.

Our 2024 annual report, "World Class, Idaho Focused" includes examples of how the U of I carries out its mission. This report includes the progress made on our institutional strategic plan and the State Board of Education's strategic plan. It also emphasizes our institutional pillars of supporting student success, prioritizing research and telling our story.

The following pages feature highlights from another banner year for the University of Idaho. Our enrollment continues to climb and our student success markers are on the rise. Our research enterprise set a new standard for excellence and we posted another very strong fundraising year.

The U of I continues to build positive momentum. Our enrollment growth fuels our financial stability and investments in strategic priorities are beginning to produce big wins.

As students discover our immense value, our employees support Idaho industries and communities. The U of I truly is world class and Idaho focused.

President Scott Green



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student GEMS



SECOND- LARGEST FRESHMAN CLASS

in U of I history
in Fall of 2023.



6-year
graduation rate
increased from
59.1% to **61%.**



2,421
DEGREES AND
CERTIFICATES
awarded in 2022-23.



UI grads earn the
**TOP STARTING
SALARIES IN
IDAHO**



More than
\$900K IN
SCHOLARSHIPS
 for cybersecurity
 students



SERVE
3,500
 rural students



65
 National Merit
 Scholars
 enrolled



Retention rates:
 Freshman retention
 rates remain
 high at **75%**
 despite much higher
 number of first
 generation students.





MISSION FULFILLMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2019, leadership 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**

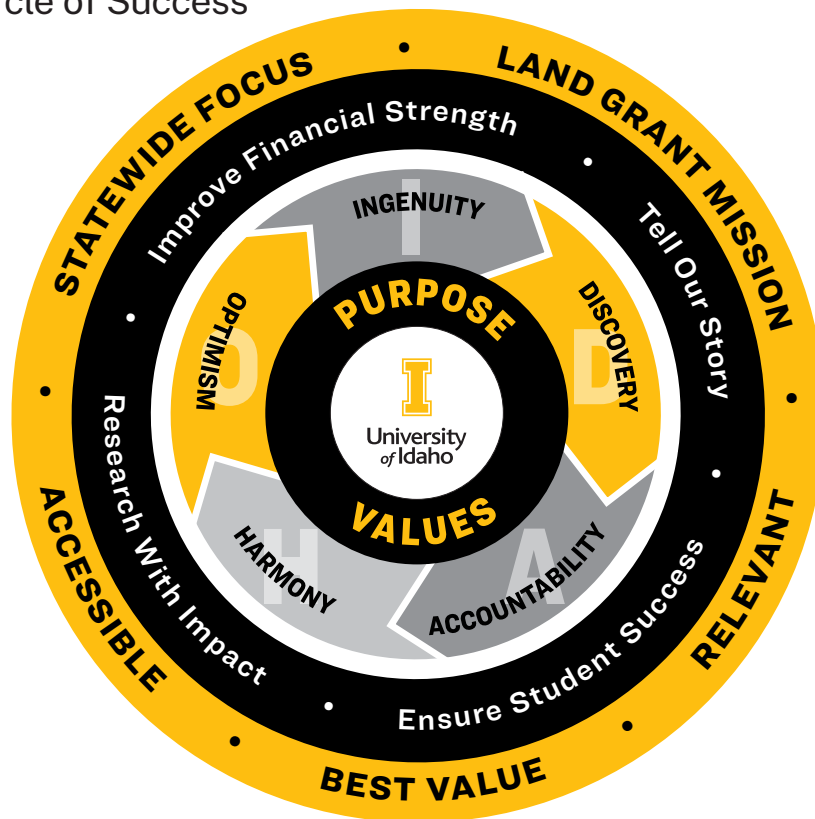
University leadership continues to monitor and discuss strategic plan metrics. Progress is communicated annually, through the April strategic plan report to the State Board of Education.

The Circle of Success shown in Figure 1 demonstrates how strategic initiatives support the U of I's mission and values.

Looking ahead, the University plans to hire a consulting firm to guide our strategic planning process in 2024-2025. Our work

with a national firm will include market analysis, industry feedback, and stakeholder input. The final plan will result in a unique vision and implementation strategies to assure the U of I's future leadership in areas at the intersection of our strengths and the state's greatest needs. We are selecting a consulting firm now and look forward to sharing an update in April 2025. In the meantime, we will continue to **aggressively focus on strategic initiatives, mission, students, and data informed decision making.**

Figure 1: Circle of Success



This framework is supported by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

State Board of Education and U of I Strategic Plan Metrics

SBOE GOAL: **EDUCATIONAL READINESS**

Provide a rigorous, uniform, and thorough education that empowers students to be lifelong learners and prepares all students to fully participate in their community and postsecondary and workforce opportunities by assuring they are ready to learn at the next educational level.

The U of I provides many opportunities for students to learn valuable skills while they are still enrolled in their K-12 courses. These programs assist with math and science proficiency, and the high school graduation rate.

STEM IN 4-H

The state 4-H office, in collaboration with the Idaho Out-of-School Network, has implemented mobile makerspaces to reach K-8 youth across the state, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Through this partnership, they have successfully reached over 25,000 youth and provided training for more than 275 educators. Also, efforts are bolstered by 100 Idaho 4-H Americorps

members stationed in 46 locations statewide. These AmeriCorps members annually engage over 9,000 youth in dynamic STEM educational activities. Statewide programming encompasses hands-on STEM learning experiences for K-12 students, featuring activities such as circuits, sling-shots, coding, 3D printing, and Microsoft programs. Recognizing the challenges faced by four-day school week districts across the state, 4-H has become a reliable provider of STEM education, offering engaging activities every Friday. In total, 4-H programming reached 75,000 youth with programs across the state.

The College of Education, Health and Human Sciences hosts the **Potlatch STEM Carnival** in collaboration with other U of I colleges to provide K-12 students opportunities to engage in hands-on



learning experiences. The partnership with the Potlatch School District is now in its third year.

The Latah County Fair **Passport to STEM** event is held each fall and offers hands-on learning activities for participants of all ages. The cross-college effort continues to draw strong support and is a popular stop at the fair.

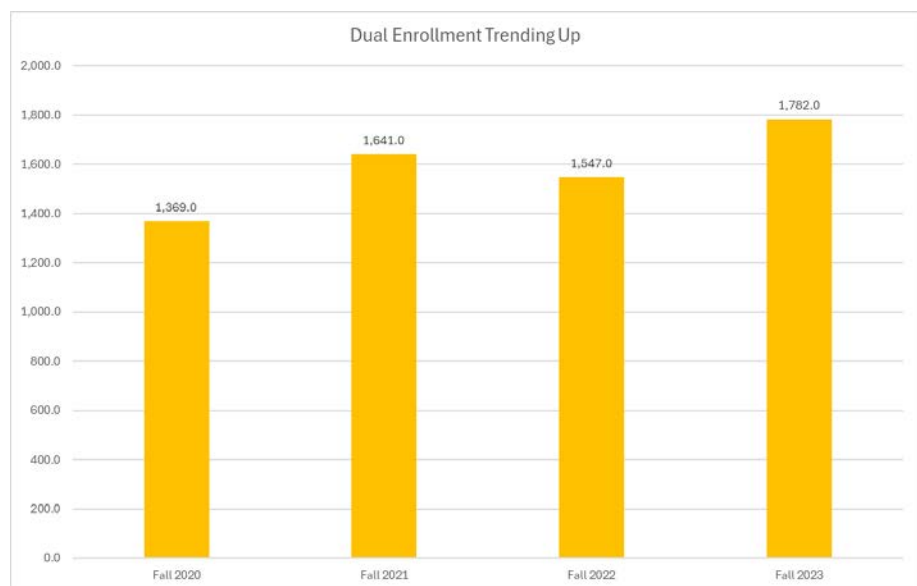
SBOE GOAL: EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Increase access to Idaho’s robust educational system for all Idahoans, regardless of socioeconomic status, age, or geographic location.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE

Percent of high school graduates who completed one or more advanced opportunities.

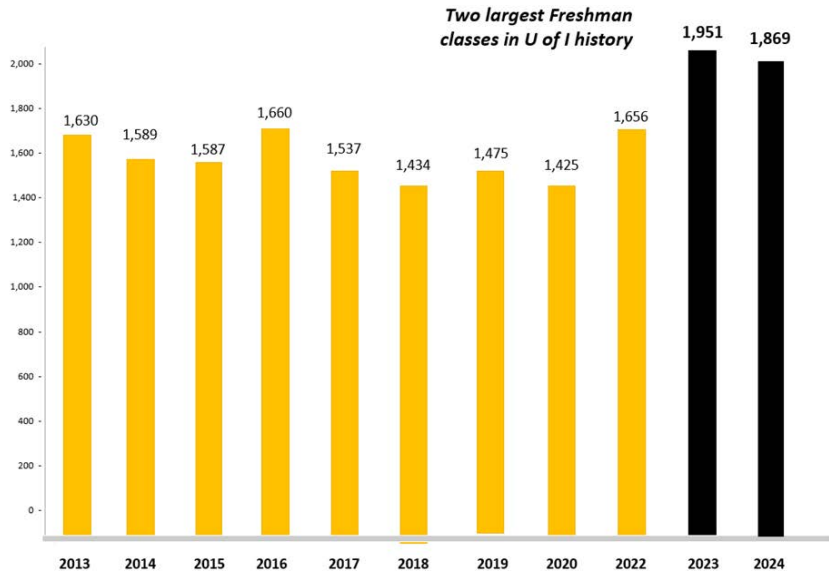
The University of Idaho has invested in our Dual Enrollment Program to increase the quality of programs offered and the number of high school students served with advanced opportunities.



PERFORMANCE MEASURE

Increase the rate at which high school graduates pursue postsecondary opportunities.

We remain committed to developing recruitment and retention strategies specifically designed to facilitate the smooth transition of high school students into the University of Idaho. As a result, **we are witnessing ongoing growth in the enrollment of first-time freshmen classes.**



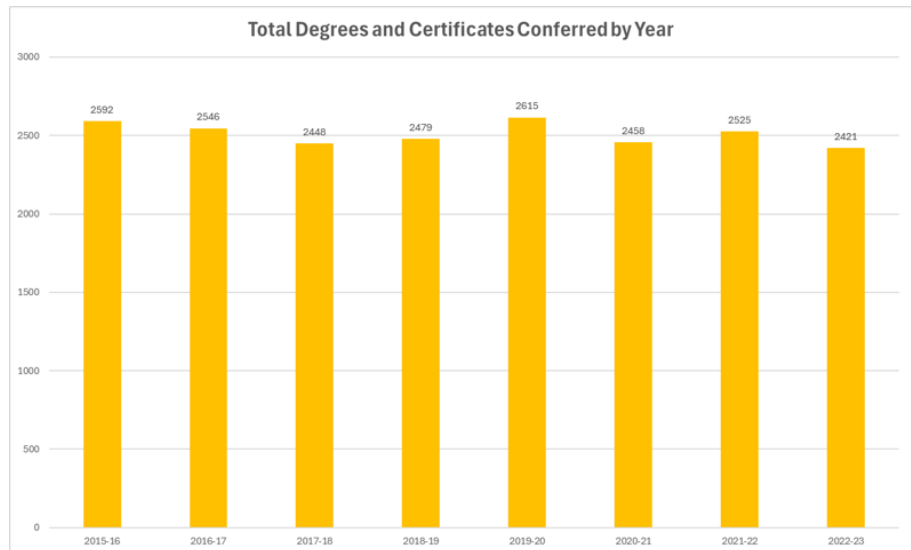
SBOE GOAL: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Idaho’s public colleges and universities and career technical education programs fuel a strong workforce pipeline evidenced through more students completing certificates and/or degrees.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE

Increase completion of certificates and degrees through Idaho’s educational system.

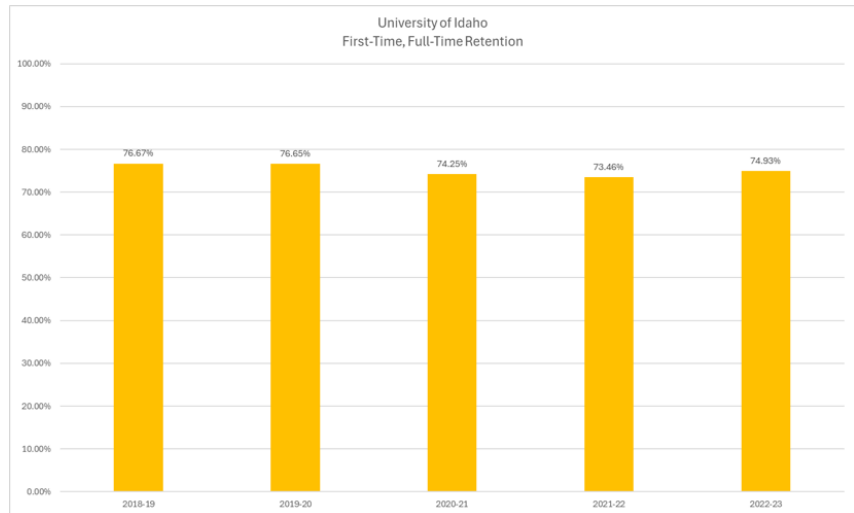
The U of I has consistently awarded degrees and certificates each year between 2,400 – 2,600. With the enrollment of the two largest freshmen classes in the past two years and a dedicated emphasis on evidence-based retention tactics, **we expect the number of degrees granted to increase.**



PERFORMANCE MEASURE

85% (for four-year institutions) of new full-time degree-seeking students return for a second year.

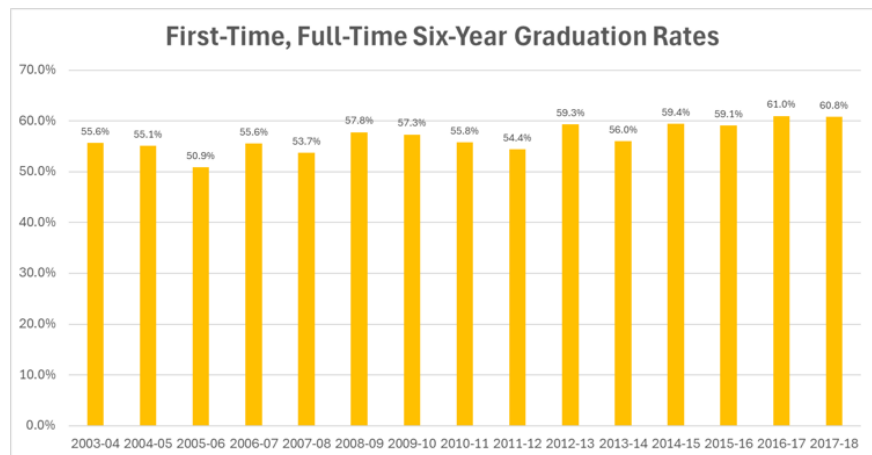
Over the past five years, our retention rate has consistently ranged between 73% and 76%. We are committed to continual improvement and will persist in implementing **evidence-based retention strategies** to elevate this metric towards the new standard of 85%.



PERFORMANCE MEASURE

Percentage of full-time first-time freshmen graduating within 150% of time or less. Benchmark: Four-year institutions – 60% or more.

The U of I's Six-Year graduation rate is 61%, above the benchmark of 60% set by the state board of education.



FACTS ABOUT OUR STUDENTS:

- About 60% of incoming freshmen in 2023 were first-generation college students.
- The U of I continues to build its prison education program, providing opportunities for incarcerated students to earn degrees and contribute positively to our communities.
 - Kent Shriver, Deputy Warden of Operations at the Idaho Correctional Institution, Orofino: “The U of I’s Prison Education Initiative has greatly affected participating students in a positive way. Our residents now have the opportunity, if admitted, to attend college and even attain a college degree. Many of them would never of had the opportunity, nor felt they could even be a college student without the PEI and the second chance Pell Grant. “
 - “Making this a reality was not an easy process. A lot of hard work from prison and university staff was required. The benefit is an opportunity for the residents to earn a degree and upon reentry obtain a job earning a living wage. Just one more step to help them become successful and not return to prison. This opportunity is not only changing the lives of the residents, but their families as well. **I believe this will have a generational impact helping to break the criminal cycle.**”

Vandal Finish is an initiative through U of I’s College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) to help former students who left school without a degree finish their education. CLASS representatives reached out to more than 1,300 former students to let them know about their options to receive a degree. Completing a bachelor’s degree, commonly called the Degree Doctor program, can be done for both general studies or interdisciplinary studies. There are also associate of arts and associate of science degrees in general studies available. Vandal Finish can also help former students complete a targeted degree.



SBOE GOAL: WORKFORCE READINESS

The educational system will provide an individualized environment that facilitates the creation of practical and theoretical knowledge leading to college and career readiness.

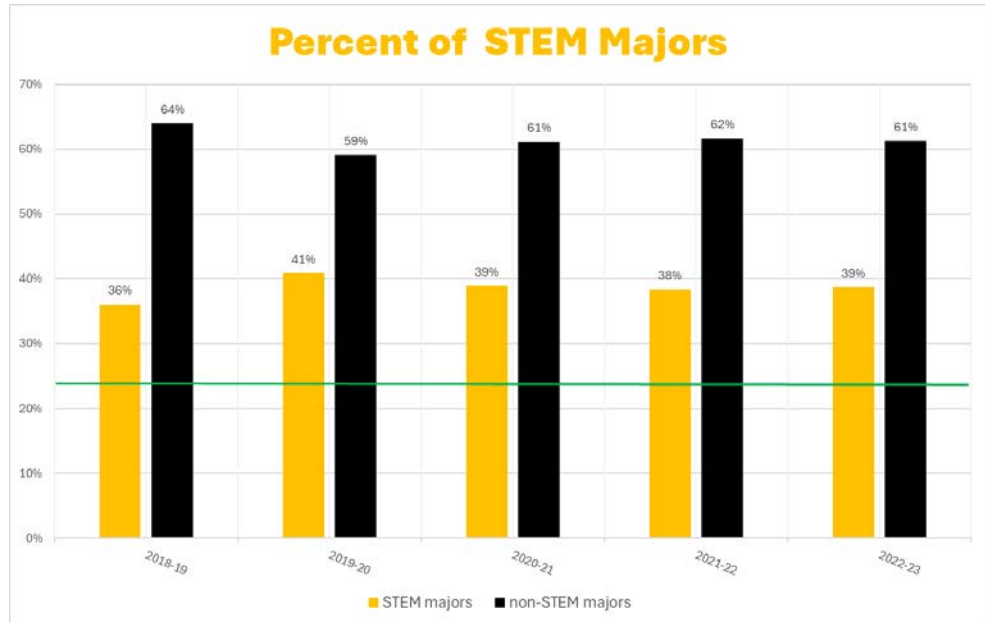
PERFORMANCE MEASURE

Percent of STEM baccalaureate degrees conferred compared to non-STEM degrees conferred.
Benchmark: 25% or more

The University of Idaho places a strong emphasis on STEM majors, with notable recognition across various disciplines.

Our College of Engineering is ranked among the top seven in the nation by the National Academy of Engineering, particularly for our undergraduate Senior Capstone Design Program, which integrates real-world experiences into engineering education. Furthermore, the College of Science's Geography B.S. Degree holds the prestigious third position nationwide according to Great Value Colleges, and our online Master's in Statistics Program ranks sixth in the country by the Data Science Degree Programs Guide.

Students pursuing STEM degrees at the U of I are assured of promising career

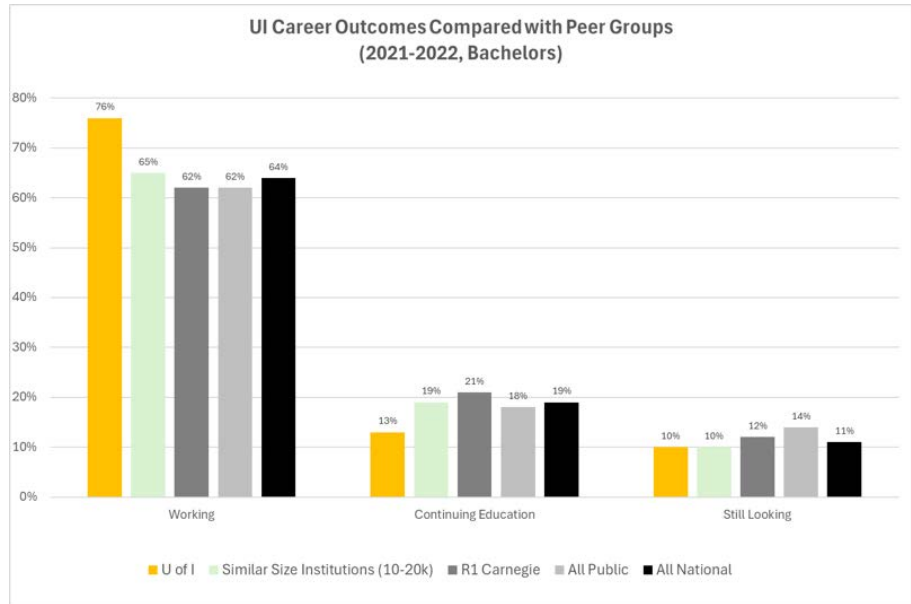


prospects with renowned employers such as Google, Microsoft, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Walt Disney Company. Additionally, our science graduates frequently advance to graduate programs at esteemed institutions like Stanford University, Princeton University, Yale University, the University of Washington, the University of Michigan, and Johns Hopkins University.

The U of I has exceeded the state board's benchmark of awarding a minimum of 25% of STEM degrees.

POST-GRADUATE SUCCESS

Post-graduate success is measured by how well students fare in their careers within six-months of graduation. Data is collected from U of I graduates using NACE’s First-Destination Survey by the Career Center. We track the percentage of students who are working (part or full-time) continuing their education (earning another degree such as a master’s or doctorate) or are still looking for employment.



Recent graduates are sent the survey approximately five months after graduation from U of I.

More U of I graduates are working after graduation than their peers nationally. Fueling this success are frequent, large and successful career fair events, intertwined career objectives and classroom learning, and career counselors with strong ties to colleges and majors.



EVIDENCE-BASED STUDENT RETENTION STRATEGIES

We have focused our resources on supporting students through the American Association of Colleges and Universities' evidence-based High Impact Practices (HIPs). Students who participate in HIPs such as service learning, internships, or undergraduate research, have better educational outcomes.

- **Undergraduate research is a fundamental element of the University of Idaho experience.** More than half of our undergraduates participate in research, which correlates with stronger academic and post-graduation outcomes. The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) has won nearly \$1 million in grant funding of undergraduate research since its inception in 2015. In 2023 OUR funded 17 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships, 12 fall fellowships and 19 spring 2024 fellowships. A record 40 students applied for 2024 summer research fellowships in seven different colleges. Eight students earned travel awards from OUR and one student will represent the U of I at the national Conference in Undergraduate Research in April.
 - The U of I had a \$456,000 National Science Foundation REU Site awarded, which will **help grow undergraduate research during the summer.** The program is called “Elements of Sustainability” and will be housed in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering (PI: Waynant - \$456K)

The U of I received more than \$900,000 in funding from the National Institutes of Health for the T34 Bridges to Baccalaureate program, which will use research and the cohort building it provides to help students transfer from North Idaho College to the U of I.





TELLING OUR STORY

Best Value Public University in the West

U.S. News & World Report named the University of Idaho the Best Value in the West among public colleges for the fourth straight year and remained second nationally behind the University of North Carolina. The ranking recognizes the overall quality of the institution in relation to the cost of attendance. The U of I was also ranked in the top 6% of all public universities on the Top Public Schools list, ahead of regional land grant peers in Montana, Washington, Nevada, Wyoming and Utah.



A+ rating for scholarship transparency

The University of Idaho remains the only school in the state recognized with an A+ rating in scholarship transparency by Universitybusiness.com. The rating is based on how well universities provide clear, easily accessible information about financial aid to ensure students and parents understand the net cost of a college education.



Study ranks U of I No. 2 in the nation for safety

Academic Influence ranked the University of Idaho No. 2 on its list of The Safest Colleges in America, only behind Purdue University. The list highlights the U of I's crime rate of 1.93 per 1,000 students, along with its numerous programs and resources to promote safety. The article also highlights the

Campus Security Team, which works with local law enforcement and emergency responders to address security concerns and cites the U of I's "proactive approach in addressing the mental health and physical safety of people who may have gone through traumatic experiences."



A record number of campus visits

In 2023 the U of I hosted 2,992 prospective students for campus visits, and campus visits have increased 7.5% over the past two years. Uldaho Bound and Meet the Vandals orientation events are attracting large numbers of prospective students. Registration for 2024 Uldaho Bound is up more than 15% over last year.

The College Tour

The U of I was featured on Season 7 of the Amazon Prime series *The College Tour* in 2023. While Amazon viewership is not available, the video has drawn more than 9,000 views on YouTube alone and is exposing our campus and programs to a broad, new audience.



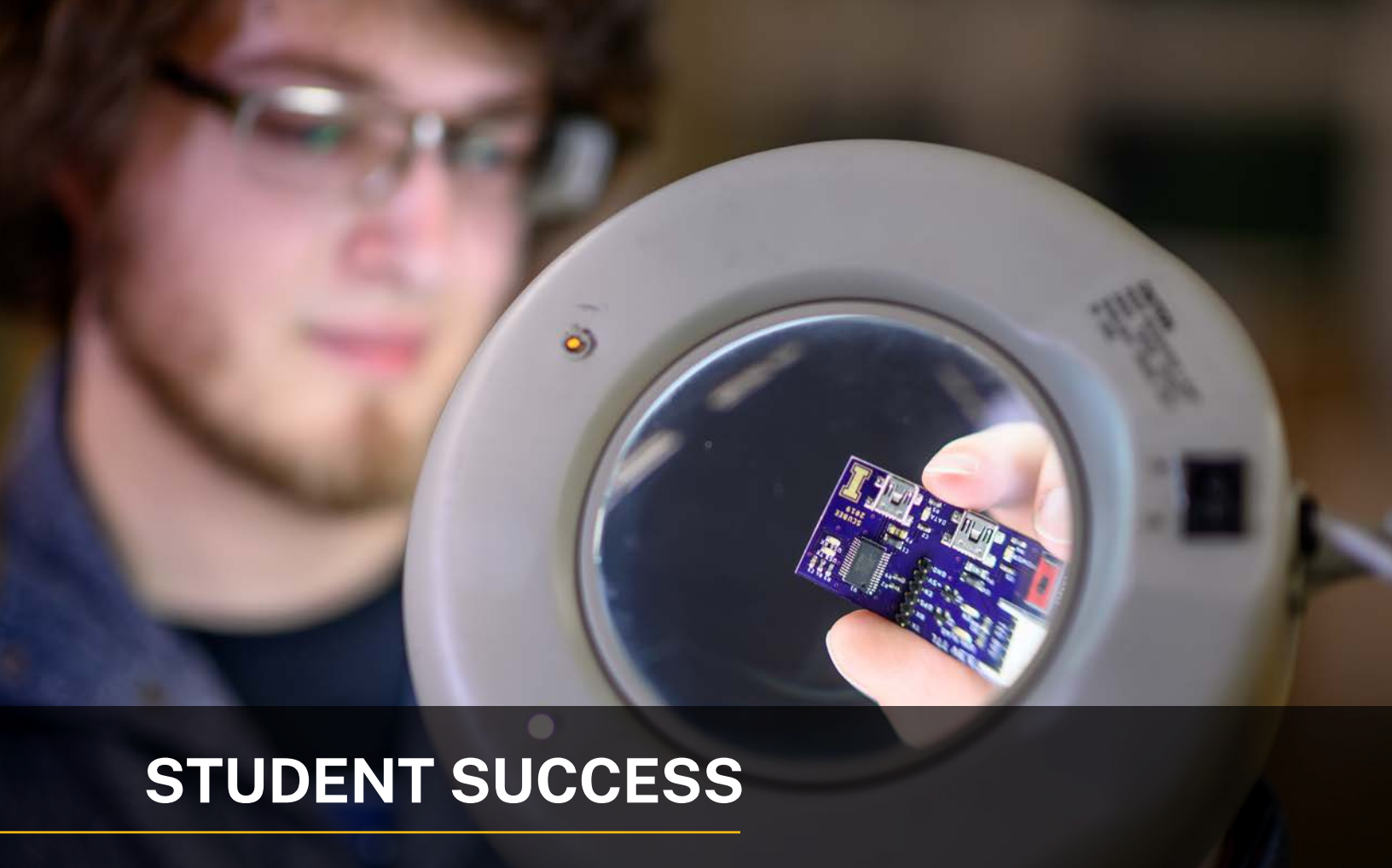
Highest Spring Enrollment

- Undergraduate enrollment increased 4.6% to 6,807 over Spring 2023.
- First-time students are up 4.9% and transfers students are up 3.2%.
- Dual credit enrollment increased 28% to 1,959 over Spring 2023's enrollment of 1,530.
- Graduate student enrollment declined slightly to 1,901 from Spring 2023's enrollment of 1,933.
- Law school enrollment is up 6.2% to 413 students over spring 2023's enrollment of 389.



U of I's Return on Investment

The Bipartisan Policy Center determined that the average student's return on investment at the U of I is \$573,297. The BPC is dedicated to promoting policies that make education more affordable, accessible, effective, and efficient. The Center used data from the U.S. Department of Education to determine its net return on investment figures.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Art that heals

Aiming to blend beauty with healing, Ainsley Bauer hit the mark when she designed her Sabi Sling Chair. The College of Art and Architecture graduate from Spokane tapped into the psychological component of healing for her class project, which guides students from concept design to model making to building their own furniture. Bauer built her chair from a piece of solid Baltic Birch and a leather sling, connected with maple dowels pushed through leather loops. After about 200 hours Bauer perfected her chair, which won first place for Design for Production at the Association of Woodworking and Furnishing Suppliers Expo in Las Vegas. Bauer is now working on her Master's in Architecture at the U of I.





Richter's family inspires lab research

Inspired by his wife and four children, Idaho WWAMI student Jordan Richter works with professor Bethany Fehrenkamp, whose lab focuses on preventative healthcare for mothers and babies. Richter's experience in the lab – assisting in the measurement of the expression of specific genes – supplements his WWAMI coursework. He presented the findings of his research project at the Western Medical Research Conference in Carmel, California earlier this year.

Grad student on the cutting edge of ag tech

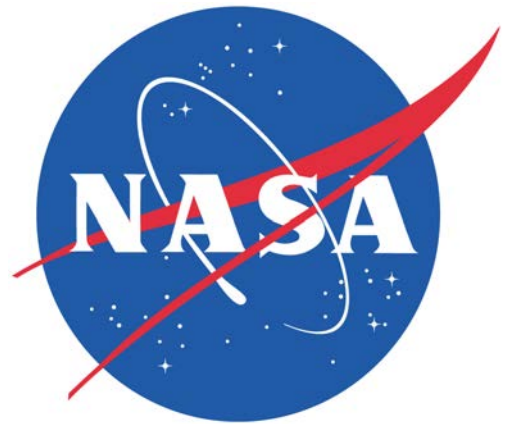
Mary Everett began her University of Idaho journey as a marketing major in the College of Business and Economics. The Lewiston native shifted gears after graduation and began specializing in robotics under the tutelage of John Shovic, Director of the Center for Intelligent Industrial Robotics in Coeur d'Alene. Everett finished her doctorate in December and gained incredible experience along the way. She and two classmates built and installed an artificial intelligence system called SCARECRO to equip an automated winery in Virginia. The system gives the vintner microclimate and environmental information to help inform their growing and business practices, saving power and reducing operating costs. Everett helped install a similar system at the Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center and even presented research findings at the European Conference on Precision Agriculture in Bologna, Italy. She is now doing postdoctoral research at the Center for Industrial Intelligent Robotics.



Engineering students help NASA track gravity waves

A team of University of Idaho College of Engineering students put in long hours during the solar eclipse of 2023, helping NASA gather complex datasets on gravity waves using weather balloons. The team traveled to Lakeview, Oregon, joining high school and middle school students to teach them about gravity waves and the significance of the solar eclipse. The data the team gathered could help improve weather forecast accuracy and the ability to anticipate large weather patterns.

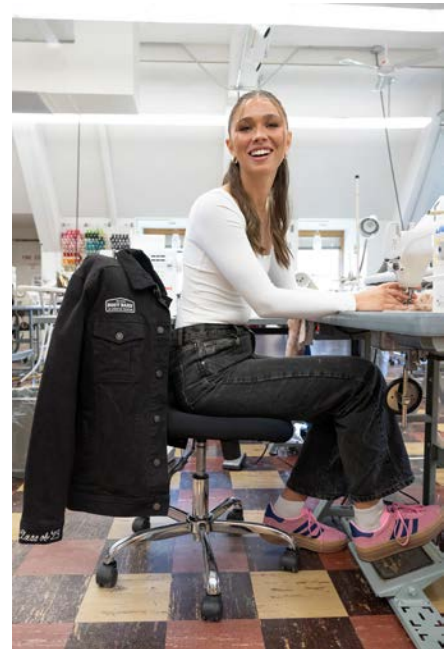
The U of I students held weekly balloon launch sessions to prepare for the precise timing and accuracy required during the national eclipse launching efforts. In 2024, the U of I team will travel to Pennsylvania for launches during the total solar eclipse in April.



Boot Barn internship kicks Richardson's prospects into high gear

Internships can often change career trajectories and Tess Richardson's professional plans took a sharp turn after her experience over the summer. As an apparel design intern for Boot Barn, Richardson came up with two designs that were selected for production. Her reversible Sherpa jacket that includes military, vintage-inspired pockets with color blocking and a vest made from the same materials with different pockets for workwear are slated to be released in fall of 2024. Richardson stayed plenty busy throughout her seven-week internship, working on blueprints for her designs, meeting with technical designers, meeting with vendors, attending fit sessions and learning about store layout. Throughout her experience, Richardson gained a great appreciation for communicating about her designs.

"I had to learn a lot about how to talk about my work," she said. "I typically am not good at sharing why I did that, why that's there and what it means. So, meeting with my manager about my designs for the first time, I didn't know what to say. As we met more, I was able to justify my designs and talk about and present them."



Richardson will graduate from the U of I with her bachelor's degree in Apparel, Textiles and Design in May and plans on a career in men's wear design.

McClain ramps up ASUI's lobbying efforts

Tanner McClain set out to restore Vandal Pride and community as president of the Associated Students of the University of Idaho. And after one term, he felt like there was more to do. McClain was elected for a second term last spring and now as a senior he's determined to make a difference on campus as he prepares for a career in law. He spent the summer as an intern for Idaho Senator Jim Risch in Washington, D.C., and returned to campus with broader perspectives and a renewed passion for collaboration. McClain helped reestablish ASUI's lobbying efforts after they were abandoned during the pandemic. He set out to gather support for an initiative to decriminalize fentanyl test strips in Idaho.

McClain plans to enter the military after he graduates in May and his goal is to become a judge advocate general officer.



Chobani Scholar dives into U of I experience

Alejandro Jimenez is headed into a career at John Deere after a jam-packed four years at the University of Idaho. He discovered the then-new Chobani Scholars program as a senior at Wilder High School and joined the inaugural cohort one year later. The support from Chobani and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) helped ease his transition to college, and Jimenez took advantage of many campus opportunities. He served as an ambassador for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, joined the Omega Delta Phi fraternity and founded the U of I chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. The financial backing of several scholarship programs allowed Jimenez to graduate debt-free.

"It impacted my life greatly, not having to worry about financial aid," he said. "I just had to focus on my grades so that was the biggest plus."



FORWARDING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

U of I earns STARS Gold Rating

The University of Idaho earned a gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education and the U of I has participated in the program since 2019.

The U of I's Office of Sustainability was established in 2023 and has worked with partners across campus to create a robust catalog of programs that empower the community to engage in sustainable solutions.

The U of I is a certified Bee Campus through the Xerces Society and a certified Tree Campus through the

Arbor Day Foundation. It is the only higher education institution in Idaho to achieve a STARS Gold Rating.





Livestock increase bug numbers, sage grouse food

As part of a 10-year study entomologists at the University of Idaho discovered that more insects and arthropods are found in sage lands grazed by cattle, resulting in more food for sage-grouse chicks.

Professor Courtney Conway and a team of students identified over 270,000 specimens and are working through the campus samples. Their work is just one piece of the U of I's wide-ranging study on sage grouse, which is helping Idaho ranchers keep cattle on their land while informing best practices to preserve the bird's habitat.

U of I grads make a splash in water conservation

From improving water quality to increasing groundwater levels, the University of Idaho's water resources program produces graduates ready to take on one of the most challenging issues of our time.

The U of I's graduate level programs are helping meet the growing need for water resource specialists, environmental compliance inspectors, environmental scientists, ag science teachers and many more related positions. Various degrees are offered through the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.





PRIORITIZING RESEARCH

The University of Idaho drives Idaho industries and provides practical solutions to the world’s toughest challenges. From agriculture to hydrology to forestry and education, U of I research delivers immense value through grants that enrich our communities.

The Journey to R1

The University of Idaho is closing in on its goal of reaching R1 research status. This important step will open the door for faculty to better compete for larger research grants that can play a key role in development of patents, startups, and commercial applications. This is research with a purpose that will solve issues most important to Idaho. **Recent successes put the U of I on track to become Idaho’s first R1 research university in 2025.**

- An article in The Chronicle of Higher Education in November 2023 described the new criteria for a university to qualify for R1 research status. **The article included a list of projected R1 institutions under the new criteria, and included the University of Idaho.**

- The University of Idaho shattered its previous record in 2023 with \$135,9 million in research expenditures.
- The University of Idaho continues to strengthen support for its research enterprise by hiring post-doctoral researchers. A record number of postdocs were employed in 2023.

POP TALKS

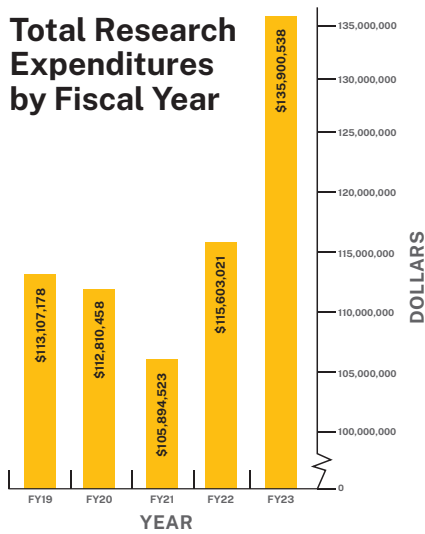
- In November, **eight outstanding U of I faculty presented 3-minute mini-lectures on the “Power of Possibility”** in their respective fields of research to a standing-room only audience on the U of I campus. At the end of the eight presentations the audience voted for their favorite and professor Omi Hodwitz emerged as the winner for her discussion of prison education. Each of the POP Talks was recorded and are now available on U of I’s YouTube channel.

\$135.9 million in expenditures

A university working group focusing on the steps to achieve R-1 status under the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education developed a roadmap in 2020. As part of the roadmap, U of I has invested in post-doctoral researchers and graduate students to help faculty accomplish research objectives. The benefit to the university, the state of Idaho and our partners throughout the state, is already being realized by a larger share of federal research dollars, higher quality research programs and a greater ability to attract quality faculty and students. The university is on track to reach R-1 status in 2025.

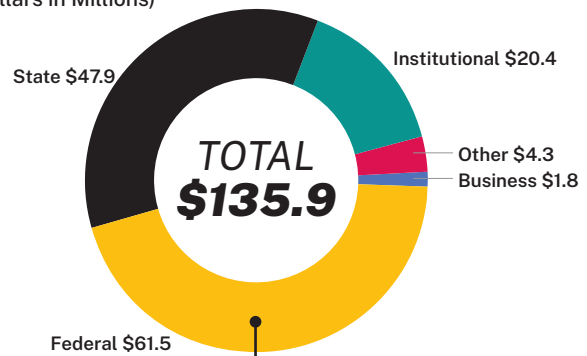
FY23 Research Activity and Expenditures

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 in FY23 by Funding Source

(Dollars in Millions)

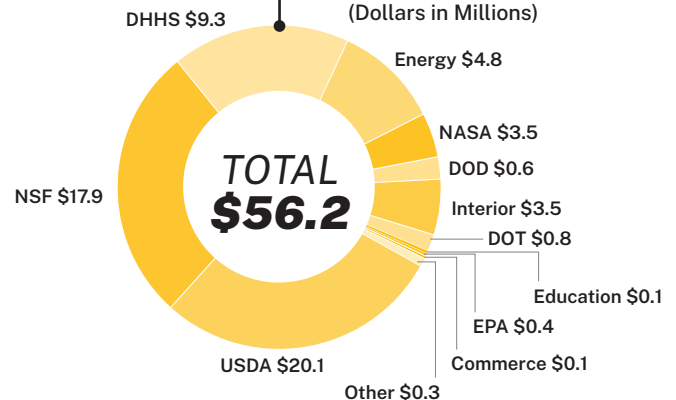


Summary of Sponsored Proposals & Awards Activity in FY23

SPONSORED PROJECTS	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Proposals Submitted	893	\$340,506,259
AWARDS RECEIVED	NUMBER	AMOUNT
New Awards	452	\$119,143,582
Other Actions	277	\$52,180,479
TOTAL AWARDS	729	\$171,324,061

Portion of Federal Research Expenditures by Sponsoring Agency

(Dollars in Millions)



FY 23 STATS	\$135.9 M in research expenditures	452 new awards	12 invention disclosures	12 new licenses
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Leading Water Research in Idaho and beyond

NSF PROJECT TO EXPLORE IDAHO ENERGY AND WATER USE

A team of Idaho researchers, led by the University of Idaho's Andrew Kliskey, won a \$24 million grant from the National Science Foundation for a project studying the impact of changes in climate, population and technology on energy and water use in the state. Kliskey will lead researchers from the U of I, Boise State University, Idaho State University, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Shoshone Bannock Tribes in collaboration with utility companies, state and federal agencies as well as Idaho cities and counties. The goal is to identify energy and water use strategies that will be resilient to Idaho's changing needs based on feedback from communities.

UI AWARDED GRANT TO IMPROVE WATER BUDGET PREDICTIONS

The University of Idaho was awarded a U.S. Geological Survey 104g National Competitive Grant to lead a modeling project to enhance water budget predictions in the contiguous United States. Professor Meng Zhao will lead the more than \$618,000 grant in collaboration with researchers at The Ohio State University and the USGS Upper Midwest Water Science Center. The work will aim to improve the accuracy of hydrologic models to account for below-ground processes concerning how water, soil and vegetation interact with prediction of water resource availability.

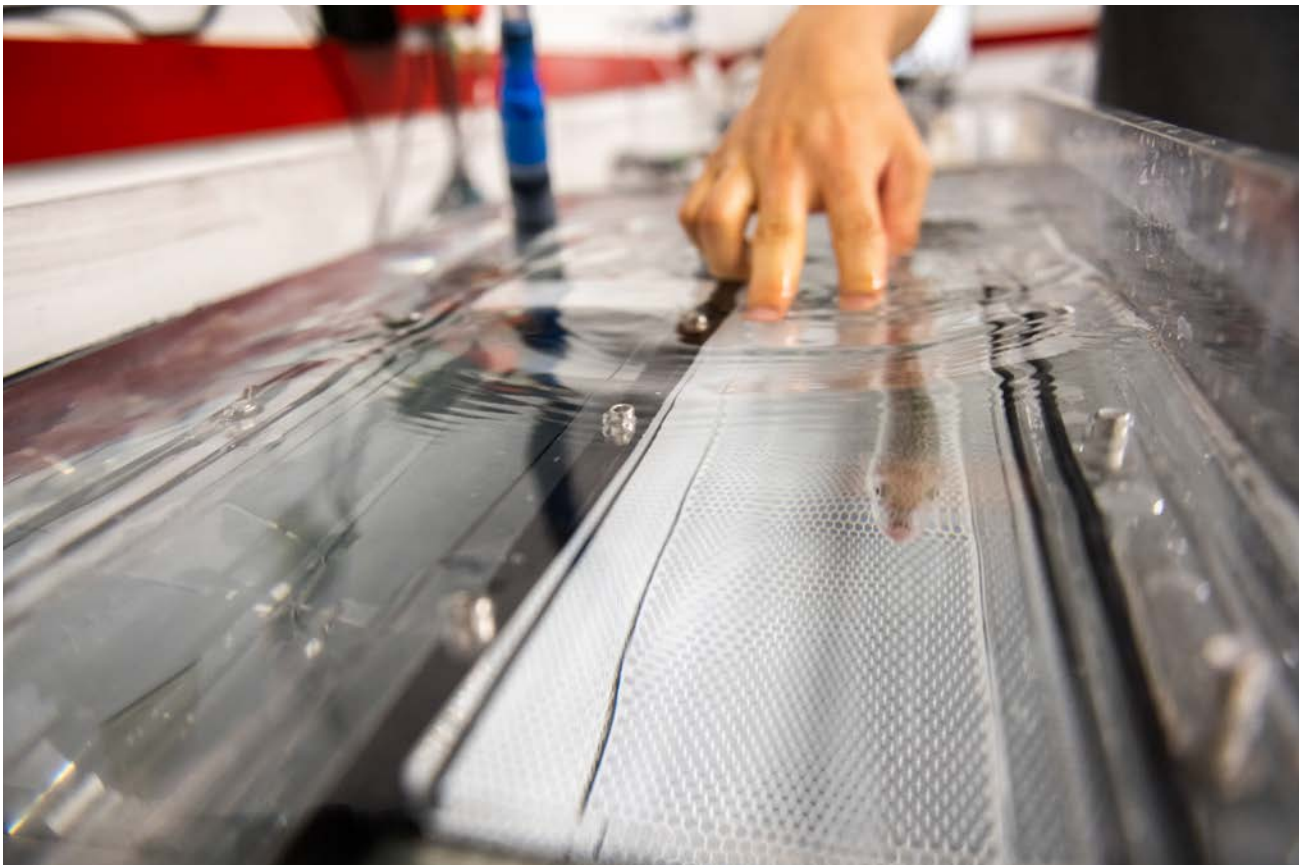


CLEAN WATER MACHINE UTILIZED BY ANHEUSER-BUSCH

Anheuser-Busch's Elk Mountain Farms utilized the University of Idaho's Clean Water Machine to treat shallow groundwater beneath the soil and recover phosphorus. A team of College of Agricultural and Life Sciences researchers used iron and biochar in a flow-through filter to treat the groundwater and the recovered biochar was tested as a soil amendment to nourish and fertilize plants on the farm. Anheuser-Busch may look to implement the technology long term depending on the investment and if the technology can help the company reach one of its sustainability goals.

U OF I RESEARCHERS AIM TO BOOST TROUT PRODUCTION IN GEORGIA

University of Idaho researchers are working with the country of Georgia to modernize its fish farms and preparing Georgians to become aquaculture trainers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) tapped scientists with the U of I's Aquaculture Research Institute to lead the effort in Georgia to establish trout production as a significant industry. A team of researchers visited Georgia and toured fish farms and provided equipment and supplies to aid in diagnosing disease and testing water quality. A group of Georgia farmers and other representatives from the country visited ARI's Hagerman facility this year to learn more about the U.S. trout industry.





FUNDRAISING

- The Brave. Bold. Unstoppable. campaign centers on three themes – Student Success, Sustainable Solutions for Idaho and a Thriving Idaho for All, with the goal to raise \$500 million by 2025. Through FY 2023, the campaign raised more than \$394 million, including more than \$119.8 million toward scholarships.
- **The U of I had another outstanding year of fundraising, bringing in \$57.4 million in FY23**, our second highest amount ever. A total of 6,742 donors made 14,801 gifts. 59 new endowments were established through nearly \$7 million in gifts.
- Vandal Giving Day (April 4, 2023) also set a record for U of I by bringing in \$819,662 in just 1,889 minutes.
- In June 2023 PIFCU partnered with the U of I for a 10-year naming sponsorship for the **PIFCU Kibbie Dome** and includes a variety of financial literacy sponsorships for students. In addition to naming the iconic athletic facility, the partnership includes support for two student financial success programs. Better Education About Money for Students (BEAMS) is a financial education and individualized coaching program that teaches financial knowledge and skills. Elevate Idaho focuses on equipping student-athletes with the financial knowledge to help them best navigate their Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) opportunities. The partnership with PIFCU will also include UI Extension Personal and Family Finance programming, which focuses on personal and family finance for low- and moderate-income households in communities throughout the state.



GIVING HIGHLIGHTS

Individuals/Families

- **Suzie and Maury Wiese** established the Wiese Plant Pathology Teaching and Research endowment to support faculty in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. In addition to their FY23 support of the endowment, the Wieses generously included an estate gift to U of I to provide future funding for the endowment.
- **Priscilla Wegars '91** made additional gifts to the Terry Abraham and Priscilla Wegars Professor of Asian American Historical Archaeology, an endowed professorship in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences. The endowment's value is now approximately \$4.25 million.
- **John A. Huckabay/Durward & Susan Huckabay Foundation** made further contributions to the Durward A. Huckabay, M.D. WWAMI Idaho Scholarship Endowment to make medical education more affordable for Idaho's future physicians. The Huckabay Foundation's \$14 million endowment is the largest in U of I history and has distributed \$200,529 in scholarship support since spring semester 2022.
- **Alice "Mitzi" McHale** made further contributions to the Eugene A. and Alice J. McHale Scholarship Endowment, established in 2020. To date, the endowment has distributed \$138,588 in scholarship support to students in the College of Natural Resources.
- **Nancy and John Nation, Jr. '69** established the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory Equipment Acquisition Fund for upgrades to the College of Engineering Mechanical Engineering Machine Shop, which offers a variety of hands-on learning experiences for students.

Corporations/ Organizations

- **Ardurra Group, Inc.**, a leading provider of multidisciplinary engineering and design services to water, transportation and aviation end-markets, gave \$100,000 to support and name the Ardurra Civil and Environmental Engineering Water Lab.
- **Optum Idaho's** mission is to transform the outpatient mental health and substance use system to help people reach recovery. The health care company gave \$225,000 to Idaho Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO Idaho) programming and \$125,000 to create ECHO Idaho programming addressing behavior health.
- **CHS Foundation** is dedicated to building ag career pathways and educating rural youth by supporting cooperative and safety education, university partnerships and ag leadership programs. Its generous gift of \$250,000 directly supports the Meat Science and Innovation Center honoring Ron Richard. The foundation gave an additional \$40,000 toward its CHS Foundation Scholarship.
- **Alpine 4-H Club** promotes youth independence and self-confidence all while making new friends and learning exciting new skills. The Alpine 4-H Camp Endowment provides \$300,000 for 4-H Summer Camp scholarships as the club removes financial barriers for experiential learning and discovery in a positive environment.
- **Cargill, Inc.** is a family company providing food, ingredients, agricultural solutions and industrial products to nourish the world. Its gift of \$500,000 to the Idaho Center for Agriculture Food and the Environment (Idaho CAFE) supports dynamic research and education to develop solutions to complex problems in Idaho's dairy, livestock and food processing industries.



STUDENT IMPACT

“When I am awarded a scholarship, doors open. I worry less about working and instead can invest my time volunteering within my college and community. This scholarship has enabled me to step up as a leader. My senior year, I am the Vice President of the Graue Scholars, an ambassador for the College of Business & Economics, and the student representative on the College’s Dean Search Committee.”

Lian Koepfel, Business Management ‘23

“I am a first generation college student who is paying for school by herself. I work during breaks and a part time job while classes are in session. Thanks to scholarship support I am able to afford to further my education without taking student loans out! U of I donors’ generosity has inspired me to one day be a donor to the same programs that have impacted me so deeply.”

Kamryn Orr, Agriculture Economics ‘24

“My scholarship has allowed me to attend U of I and prosper without the worry if I can buy my materials to succeed in my courses. I cannot thank the donors enough for the doors that receiving this scholarship has opened to me, but I can guarantee that I will seize every opportunity to be better than I was.”

Samuel Aguilar, Exercise, Sport, Health Science Pre-Athletic Training ‘25

“My scholarship has helped me and my family substantially. My wife and I live in Lewiston, and this scholarship has helped us afford the books and supplies that are needed for my schooling, as well as being able to support ourselves as I go through this program.”

Isaac Krasselt, Agricultural Systems Management ‘24





BUILDING ON OUR FOUNDATION

CAFE

Thanks to key investment from the state, the Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment is becoming a reality this year. When finished, CAFE will be the largest research dairy in the country and allow faculty and staff to address constraints on water usage and environmental quality while supporting the agricultural sectors of dairy, livestock and cropland, as well as the food processing industries. A partnership between education, industry and economic development stakeholders will result in dynamic research and education to develop solutions to complex problems.



Research at CAFE will cover a broad range of areas, from agriculture economic impacts and labor management to nutrient and wastewater management.

Meat Science Center

The U of I broke ground on the Meat Science and Innovation Center Honoring Ron Richard on the west side of campus. This facility will be critical for workforce training and research. The current building is more than 50 years old and is the only USDA-inspected facility in the region. The limited space in the building restricts our ability to deliver modern programs and meet local processing needs. The new Center allows us to add value to Idaho agricultural products. Instead of shipping cows out of state

for processing, this facility ensures we keep Idaho cows in Idaho – adding to our state’s bottom line through sales and income tax returns. The new Meat Science and Innovation Center will house Vandal Brand Meats and help us address a big need in the industry for workforce development and training. It’s already garnered more than \$6 million in private support from more than 30 stakeholders statewide and it will play a central role in powering Idaho’s livestock, agriculture, and meat processing industries.



Parma Research and Extension Center

Idaho has nearly 25,000 farms and ranches, which produce more than 185 different commodities. One of the founding missions of the University of Idaho is to help these farmers, ranchers and associated businesses succeed, through our research and education programs. And one of the best ways to see this in action is at the Parma Research and Extension Center. In 2025, the Center will celebrate a century of supporting Treasure Valley farmers through research focused on the production, harvesting and storage of vegetables, forages, cereals, hops,



mint, fruit and seed crops. This partnership has helped ensure Idaho seeds are ranked the best in the world. Seeds like lettuce, carrots, onions and turnips are harvested, cleaned, packaged and shipped to more than 120 countries worldwide – creating thousands of Idaho jobs in the process. The new research and extension center will allow the U of I to deliver critical research and service to Idaho growers.



McCall

Our McCall Field Campus is home to the McCall Outdoor Science School, or MOSS, the premier experiential STEM Education program in Idaho. Each year, thousands of Idaho K-12 students visit the McCall Field Campus to gain hands-on education in STEM fields. Plans are in place to expand and remodel the dining lodge and kitchen as part of the campus master plan. The expansion will triple the capacity of the facility.

The MOSS program aligns with the workforce goals of major employers in our state including Micron and the INL that are dedicated to expanding K-12 STEM learning opportunities. Analysis of State Board of Education data shows that MOSS students are more likely to continue in school with “go-on” rates 20% higher than statewide averages. Our goal is to make the MOSS experience available to every student in the state, and ultimately increase the supply of STEM-ready students.



CONCLUSION

The University of Idaho delivers award-winning value for students and for the state of Idaho. Our research powers industry and provides practical solutions to the state's toughest challenges. Despite significant obstacles in recent years, the U of I continues to grow enrollment, fundraise at a record-breaking pace and expand its research portfolio. We remain committed to delivering education that is world class and Idaho focused.







University
of Idaho