



# Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee Update

*February 5, 2026*



**UtahState**  
University

**3 RESIDENTIAL  
CAMPUSES**  
+  
**30 STATEWIDE  
CAMPUSES**



**15,965  
UNDERGRADUATES  
IN LOGAN**



First-year Student Luminary

**29,831  
TOTAL  
ENROLLMENT**



**3,202  
GRADUATE  
STUDENTS**



**4,271  
UNDERGRADUATES  
STATEWIDE**



**6,203  
CONCURRENT  
STUDENTS**





**\$2.2  
BILLION IN  
ECONOMIC  
OUTPUT**

*(Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute)*



**12,437  
WORKFORCE**



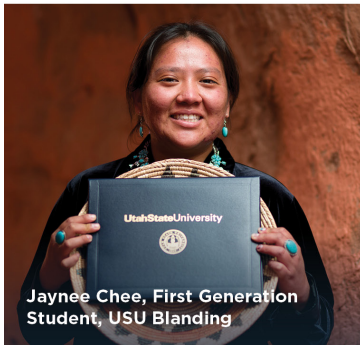
**\$517.1  
MILLION IN  
SPONSORED  
AWARDS  
(FY25)**



Undergraduate Biological  
Engineering Lab

**2<sup>ND</sup>  
OLDEST RESEARCH  
UNDERGRADUATE  
PROGRAM  
IN THE NATION**

*(Since 1975)*



Jaynee Chee, First Generation  
Student, USU Blanding

**20%  
OF UNDERGRADS ARE  
FIRST-GENERATION  
STUDENTS**



Taylor Selby, Communicative Disorders

**10%  
IN THE NATION FOR  
ONLINE BACHELOR'S**

*(U.S. News & World Report, 2024)*



Mackenzie Holmes, Air Quality  
Undergraduate Researcher



---

## Our Statewide Reach

USU delivers educational opportunities to rural and urban communities alike.

- Eight regional campuses statewide
- Extension presence in all **29 counties**
- Robust online and hybrid programs
- Technical college mission



---

# Credentials at Every Level

- **Technical Certificates (197 graduates)**  
CDL • Welding • Heavy Equipment Operator
- **Associate Degrees (1,052 graduates)**  
General Studies • Ag Science • Registered Nurse
- **Bachelor's Degrees (3,958 graduates)**  
Economics • Comm Disorders • Psychology • Mech. Engineering
- **Master's Degrees (961 graduates)**  
Business Admin • Dietetics • Accounting • Social Work
- **Doctoral Degrees (99 graduates)**  
Education • Psychology • Plant Science



**6,235 Degrees Awarded**



# Strategic Reinvestment Revisions Guiding Questions

- Are we expanding programs and student support across Utah State's campuses and online?
- How are we strengthening overall community well-being and statewide economies in alignment with our land grant mission?
- Are we making investments that will continue to advance our research mission and capacity in areas that are critical to the state?
- How are we building Utah's pipeline in high-demand areas including health, engineering, technology, and human services?



---

## Strategic Reinvestment Revisions

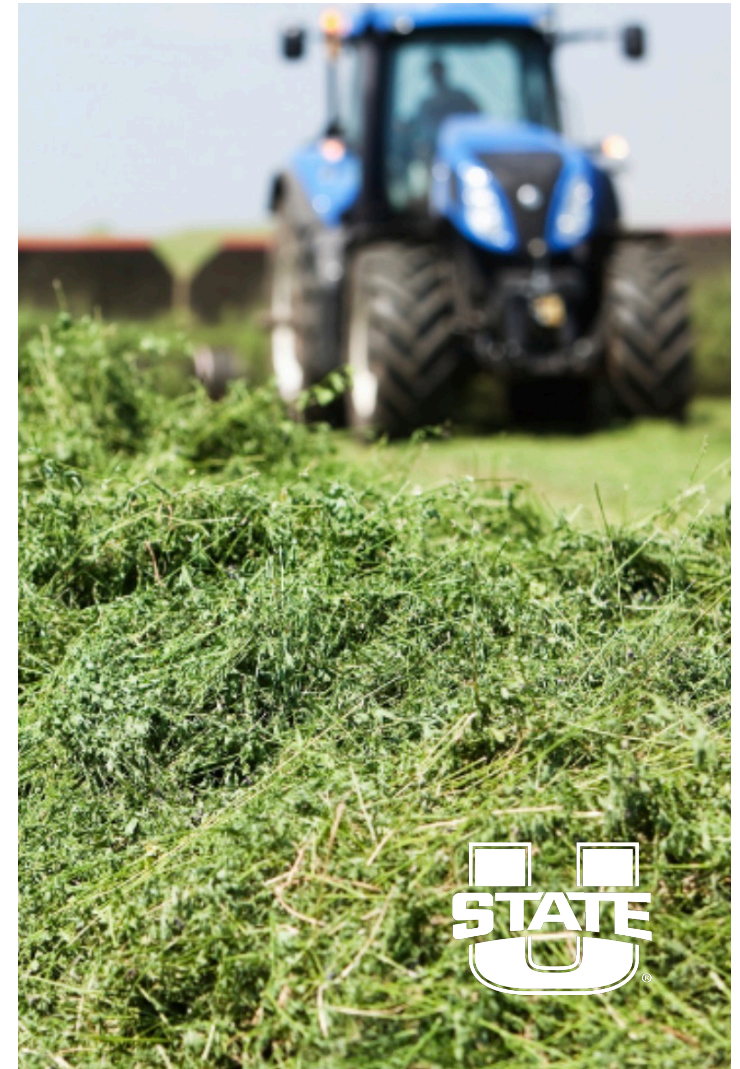
### Reallocated \$2,040,300 in revised reinvestment priorities

- Strategically realigned health initiatives within current college structure instead of creating a new college
- Adjusted allocations to Doctor of Physical Therapy, online programs, nursing, undergraduate research, School of Computing, MAIDAC, & the Honors Program

### Increased investment in student success efforts (\$300,000) and AI efforts (\$70,300)

### Identified reinvestment opportunities for:

- Building Utah's Water Network (\$250,000)
- Center for Civic Excellence (\$250,000)
- Emergency management – Moab (\$81,700)
- Engineering readiness & retention support (\$225,000)
- GeoAI and geospatial program expansion (\$140,000)
- Technology enhanced healthcare delivery (\$398,300)
- Training for rural small businesses through the E-Commerce Accelerator (\$125,000)
- Veterinary technician associate's degree (\$200,000)



# NACUBO Category Comparison



## Disinvestment (unchanged):

- Instruction: 65% (\$8,216,636)
- Academic & Institutional Support: 23.2% (\$2,934,126)
- Public Service, Research, & Student Services: 11.8% (\$1,494,538)

## Reinvestment (initial categories):

- Instruction: 83.2% (\$10,519,300)
- Academic Support, Research, & Student Services: 16.8% (\$2,126,000)

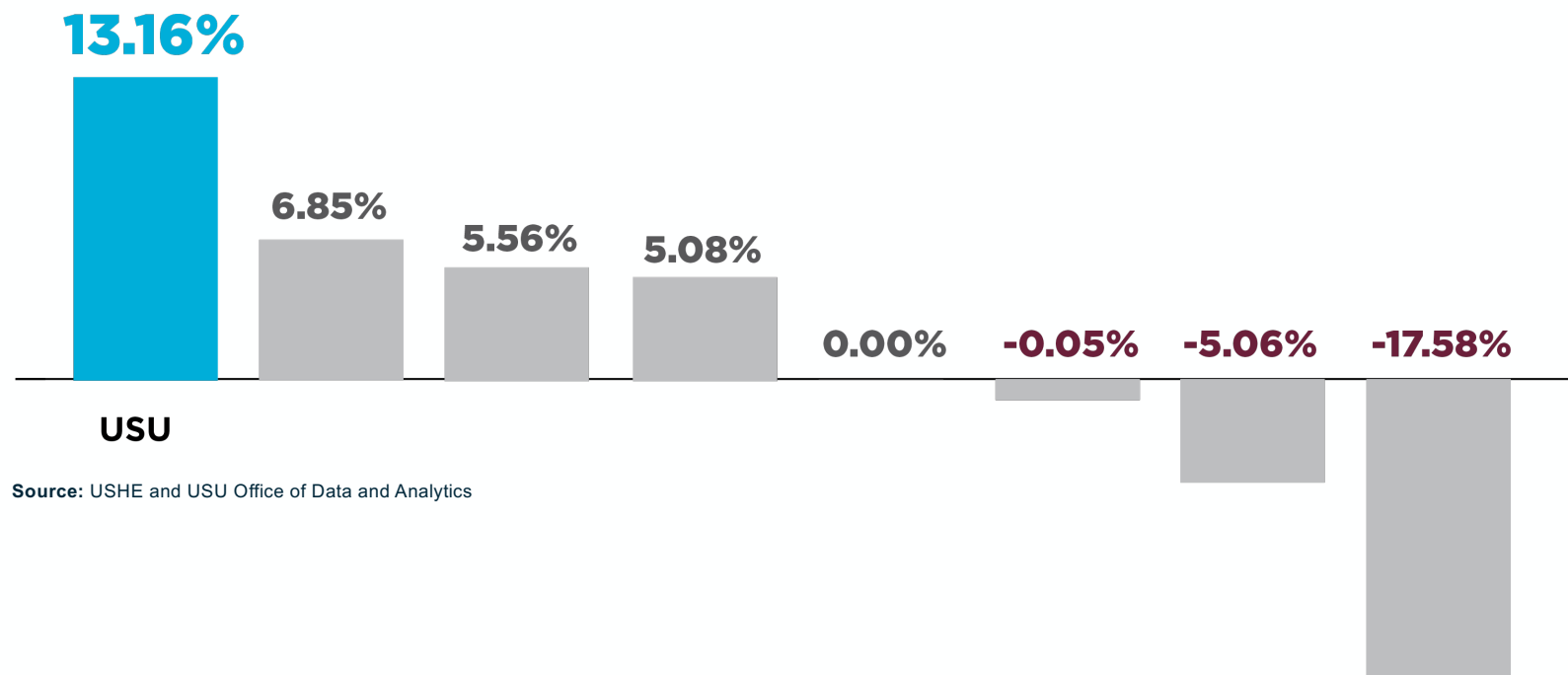
## Reinvestment (revised categories):

- Instruction: 71.8% (\$9,077,550)
- Academic Support, Public Service, & Research: 28.2% (\$3,567,750)

USU Strategic Reinvestment Plan Proposal (Reinvestments)	New Allocation (FY 2028)	Original Allocation (FY 2028)	\$ Diff	% of Diff	NACUBO Category
<b>Innovation in Academics, Research, and Community</b>	<b>\$6,556,300</b>				
AI Hub	\$570,300	\$500,000	\$70,300	3.4%	Academic Support
Center for Civic Excellence	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	12.3%	Instruction
Behavioral Neuroscience Bachelor	\$352,000	\$352,000	\$0	0.0%	Instruction
AI Data Analytics	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$0	0.0%	Instruction
Chemical Engineering	\$846,800	\$846,800	\$0	0.0%	Instruction
Dementia Care Certification	\$230,400	\$230,400	\$0	0.0%	Instruction
Faculty - Anticipatory Intelligence	\$116,400	\$116,400	\$0	0.0%	Instruction
Substance Abuse & Addiction Couns. Cert.	\$310,400	\$310,400	\$0	0.0%	Instruction
MAIDAC Initiative	\$900,000	\$1,000,000	-\$100,000	-4.9%	Instruction
School of Computing	\$800,000	\$900,000	-\$100,000	-4.9%	Instruction
Online Degree Offerings - Expansion	\$950,000	\$1,150,000	-\$200,000	-9.8%	Academic Support/Instruction
Health and Human Science Initiative	\$500,000	\$775,000	-\$275,000	-13.5%	Academic Support/Instruction
Doctor of Physical Therapy	\$0	\$385,300	-\$385,300	-18.9%	Instruction
Nursing Expansion	\$370,000	\$1,000,000	-\$630,000	-30.9%	Instruction
<b>Land Grant &amp; Statewide Mission</b>	<b>\$2,741,000</b>				
Emergency Management - Moab	\$81,700	\$0	\$81,700	4.0%	Instruction
E-commerce	\$125,000	\$0	\$125,000	6.1%	Public Service
GeoAI and Geospatial Programs Expansion	\$140,000	\$0	\$140,000	6.9%	Instruction
Veterinary Technician	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000	9.8%	Instruction
Water Initiative	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	12.3%	Instruction
Technology Enhanced Healthcare Delivery	\$398,300	\$0	\$398,300	19.5%	Instruction
Aviation Program	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	0.0%	Academic Support/Instruction
Earth Science Initiative	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$0	0.0%	Instruction
Faculty - Criminal Justice	\$232,800	\$232,800	\$0	0.0%	Instruction
School of Applied Technical Ed.	\$248,000	\$248,000	\$0	0.0%	Academic Support/Instruction
School of Design, Technology, & Built Environment	\$287,000	\$287,000	\$0	0.0%	Academic Support/Instruction
Social Work	\$168,200	\$168,200	\$0	0.0%	Academic Support/Instruction
<b>Student Support</b>	<b>\$3,348,000</b>				
Engineering Readiness and Retention	\$225,000	\$0	\$225,000	11.0%	Academic Support
Student Success Support	\$1,400,000	\$1,100,000	\$300,000	14.7%	Academic Support/Instruction
College of Arts & Sciences Advisor	\$73,000	\$73,000	\$0	0.0%	Academic Support
Graduate Education	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	0.0%	Instruction
Honors Program	\$400,000	\$500,000	-\$100,000	-4.9%	Academic Support/Instruction
UG Research	\$250,000	\$500,000	-\$250,000	-12.3%	Research
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$12,645,300</b>	<b>\$12,645,300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	

## Access

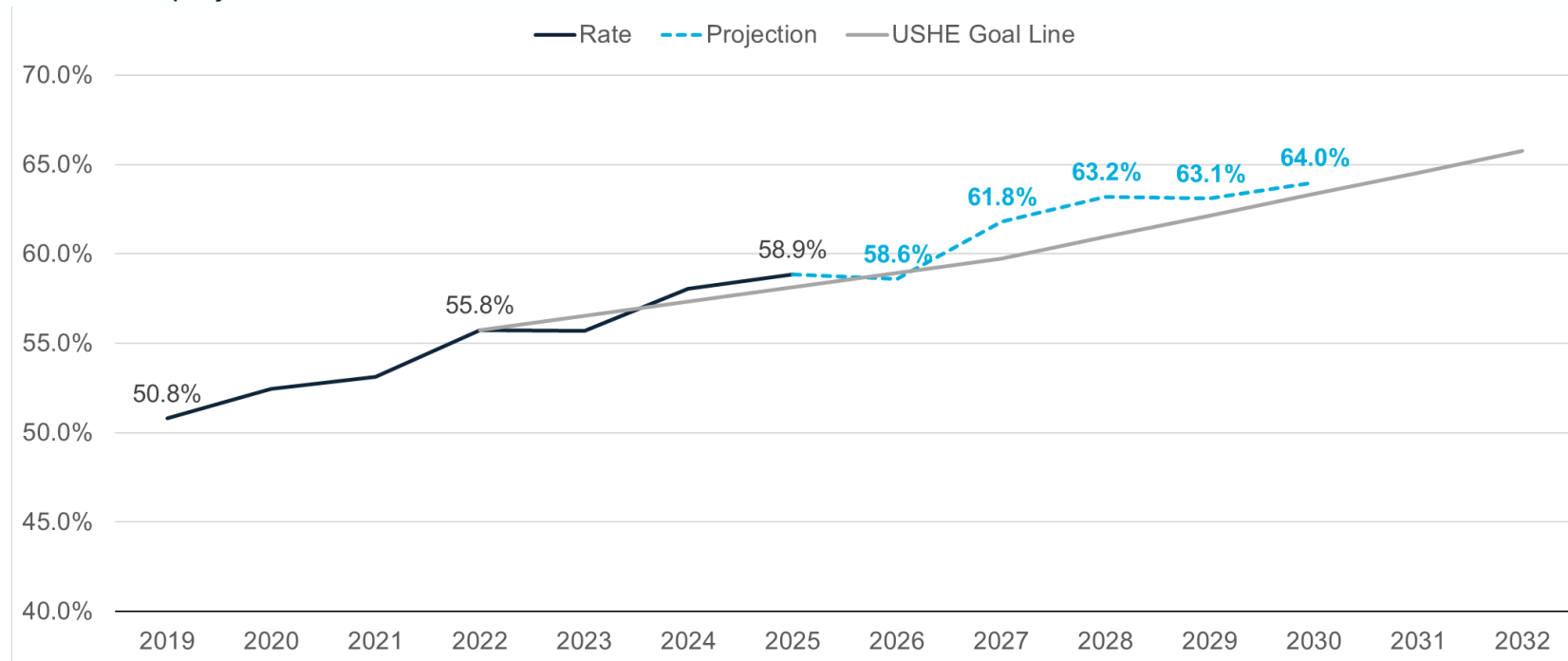
USU achieved the largest percent increase in the share of HS graduates who attend USHE institution within three years; 2021 to 2022 HS graduating cohorts



Source: USHE and USU Office of Data and Analytics

# Timely Completion

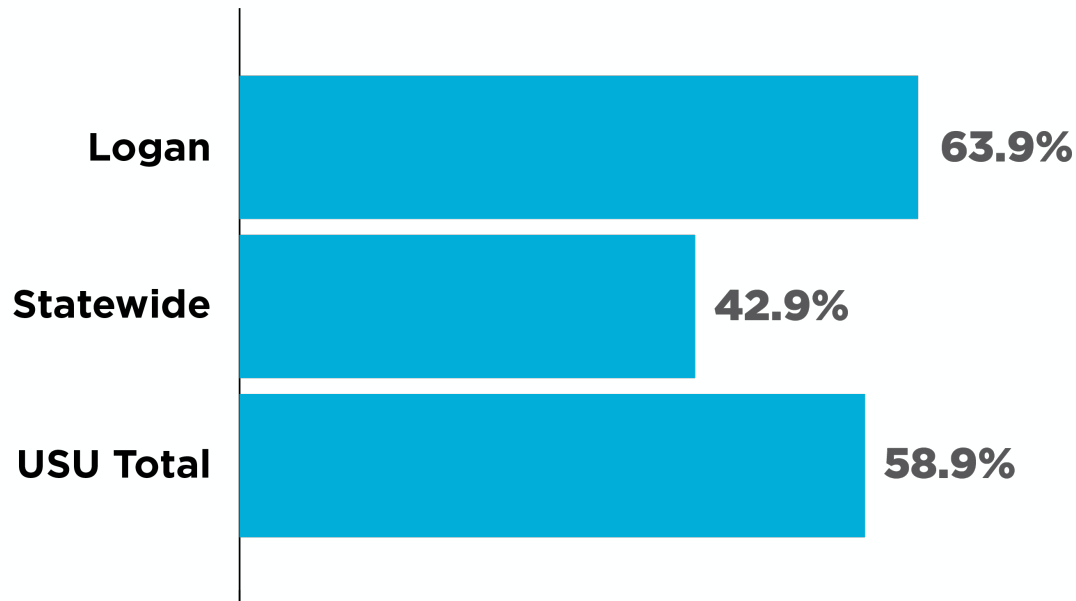
The percentage of new students at USU who complete within 150% of time (6-Yr Cohort) 2019-2025 actuals; 2026-2030 projected



Source: USHE and USU Office of Data and Analytics



## Completion Rates by USU System

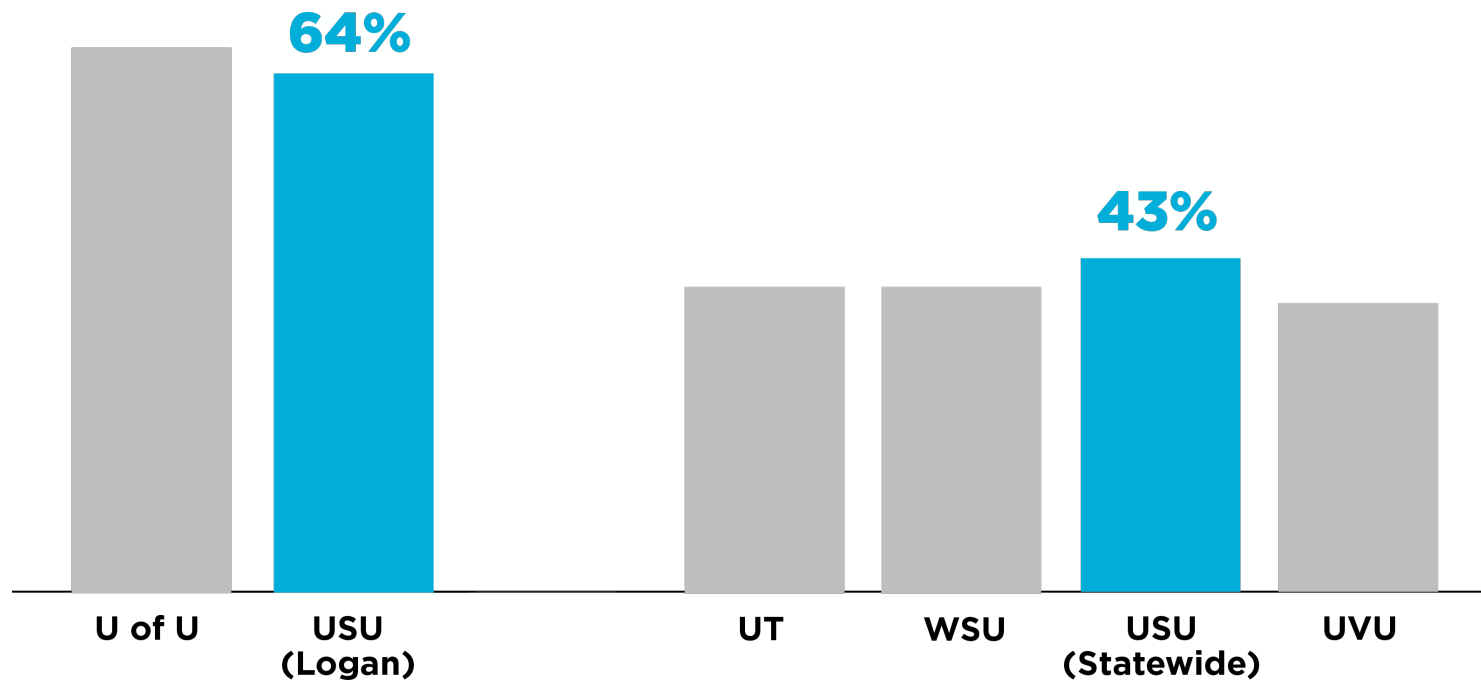


Our Logan campus completion rate is comparable to Utah's other R1 institution, while our statewide campus rates align with regional universities—reflecting our diverse mission serving different student populations.

Our strategic investments in advising, tutoring, and student support services over recent years are delivering measurable results across all campuses.



## Completion Rates by USU System



## 3-yr Tech Education Cohort - USU

Metric Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
3 Yr Cohort	119	140	151	68
Timely Completers	32	38	50	17
Completion Rate	26.9%	27.1%	33.1%	25.0%

**✗ 29.9%**  
-8.1 point decrease

- Small Cohorts (~100 students)
- ~40% of Tech Ed students are also degree-granting students (may not be counted here)



---

# Career Readiness & Placement

**32%**

## Internship Experience

Nearly one in three undergraduate students complete an internship before graduation, gaining real-world experience that enhances career readiness and employability.

**8,485**

## Career Design Participants

Our career design programs empower students to explore pathways, build networks, and pursue careers aligned with their goals.

**89%**

## High Yield Awards

Percent of graduates completing in high yield programs.





# Affordability & Access

Utah State University remains committed to keeping higher education affordable and accessible for all Utah families.

## Financial Aid & Scholarships

**73.4%** of students receive some type of financial assistance (e.g., grants, scholarships, loans) from either federal, state, or institutional aid sources.

## Scholarships & Waivers

- **56%** (13,094 students)
- **\$92 million** awarded
- Average award: \$7,000

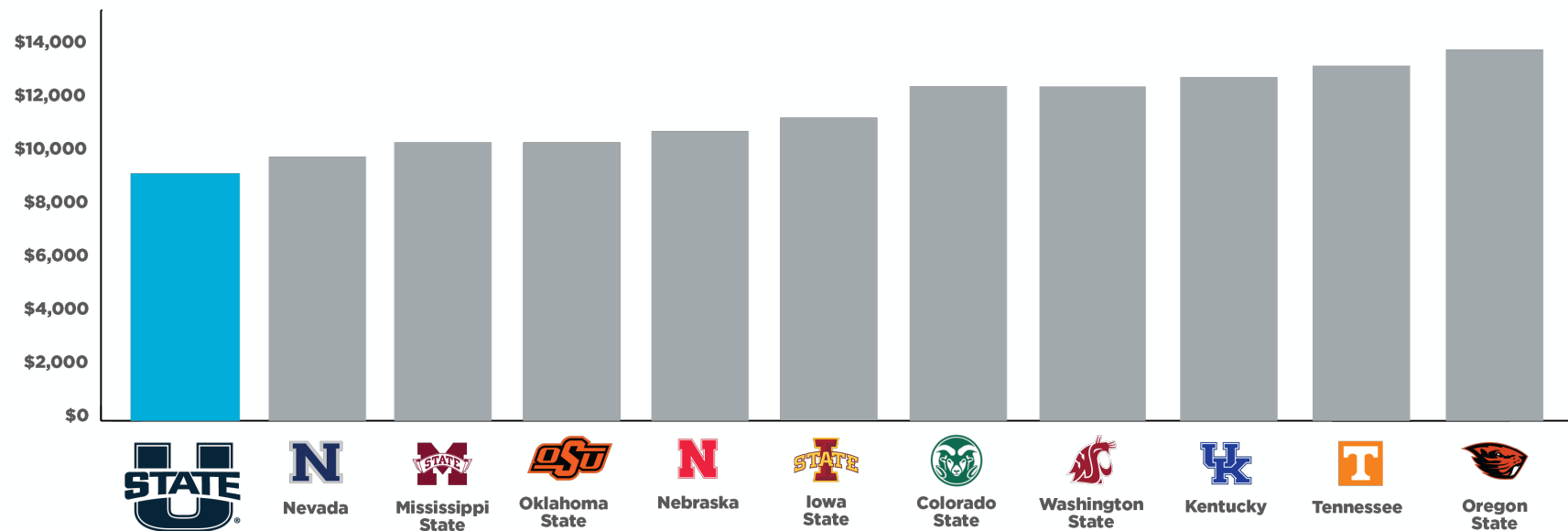
## Grants

- **32.3%** (8,292 students)
- **\$46.5 million** awarded
- Average award: \$5,600

# Average Tuition

## IPEDS Tuition and Fees

The IPEDS published undergraduate, resident tuition and fees: AY 24-25



**Note:** This tuition and fee rate will differ from the USHE approved rate because it is an estimated value based on the cost of attendance data reported to the U.S. Department of Education. Because USU has differential undergraduate tuition this number considers those differences to average what a USU student might pay in tuition. The number can affect how much money USU can disburse as part of its financial aid packages.

**Source:** IPEDS Published in-district tuition and fees 2024-25 (COST1\_2024)

---

## **Update on Funded Requests for Appropriations**

- **Utah Forest Restoration Initiative:** USU is advancing research, partnerships, and statewide coordination to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk, while positioning this work to leverage future federal research partnerships and funding.
- **Manufacturing Extension Partnership:** Hands-on technical and business optimization support through extension



---

# Center for Civic Excellence

- **275 faculty** engaged in visioning sessions
- **60 faculty** developing program, learning outcomes, courses.
- Fall 2026: **20 pilot courses** across eight areas,
- Fall 2028: scaling to about **50 courses**
- **Select Course Titles:**
  - Data and the Stories They Tell
  - “The Blessings of Liberty”: American Government
  - The Science of You: Health and the Human Body
  - Financial Foundations for Life and Society
  - Farm to Future: Sustainable Food Systems
  - Visual Arts and the Creative Life
  - Lead from Where You Are
- **Budget (\$3,000,000 goal):**
  - \$551,000 appropriated for FY 2025-26
  - \$250,000 strategic reinvestment
  - \$1,500,000 Governor's FY 2026-27 Recommendation



---

## Performance Funding Allocated in FY 26

- Veterinary Technician Program
  - Building stackable program for students in Blanding & Logan
  - Will complement federally funded Mobile Research and Training Laboratory
- Nursing Statewide



---

# Human Machine Teaming

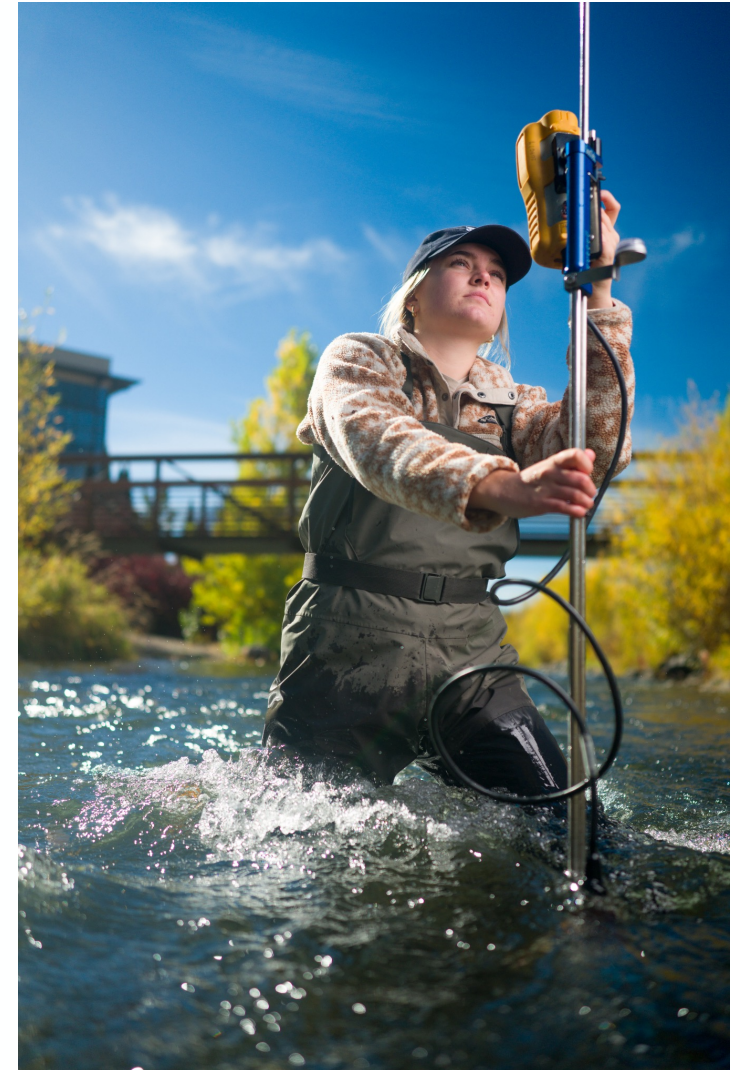
- Building on what we know works:
  - Analytics Solution Center (ASC)
  - Center for Anticipatory Intelligence (CAI)
- Adding additional academic coursework focused real-world projects that integrate AI, analytics, and durable skills such as resiliency.
- Enhancing workforce aligned AI proficiency focused on practical application and human-machine integration.
- Expanding statewide and extension embedded engagement.
- Increasing opportunities for paid, project-based work experience with external partners.



---

## Securing Utah's Water Future

- **Data-Driven Management:** Expanding stream and diversion monitoring throughout the Great Salt Lake basin to improve water distribution and ecosystem health.
- **Agricultural Sustainability:** Identifying cost-effective irrigation upgrades and crop strategies to maintain farm viability while reducing water consumption.
- **Science-Based Solutions:** Providing independent data analysis to resolve water disputes and inform policy through programs like "Growing Water Smart."





---

## Rural Economic Development

USU's new Center for Rural Economic Development & Emerging Technologies is transforming rural communities by empowering residents with digital economy skills, global market access, and broadband connectivity.

### Remote Work Opportunities

Enabling rural residents to access high-wage digital careers without relocating, keeping talent in communities.

### Global Market Access

Helping small businesses scale local products into international e-marketplaces.

### Digital Infrastructure

Accelerating broadband adoption and digital literacy to close the rural-urban divide.



---

# Operation Gigawatt Partnership

The **Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water & Air** and **Utah Office of Energy Development** have launched a fellowship to provide data-driven solutions for doubling Utah's energy production over the next decade.

This technology-neutral approach analyzes energy expansion alongside protection of land, water, and air quality—equipping policymakers with a comprehensive **Tradeoffs Matrix** to evaluate cost, reliability, and environmental impact.



## USHE Degree Granting Institution Capital Request

- **Animal Science Building Remodel & Expansion** – Modernizing critical facilities to support cutting-edge research and instruction in math, statistics, data science, computer science, and AI.

Source	Amount
Dedicated Funds	\$23,532,338
Design Funds (FY 26)	\$3,500,000
Non-Dedicated Request	\$19,502,362
Total Project	\$46,584,700

- **O&M Request: \$282,800**



---

# Our Budget Requests

## Operations & Maintenance Request

- **Hazardous Waste Facility:** Support for modernizing a facility that ensures the safe, compliant disposal of hazardous materials
- **O&M: \$50,885**

## Operating Budget Request

- **Utah Water Network:** Strengthening Utah's statewide water research and monitoring capacity to support communities, agriculture, and economic resilience through science-based solutions.
- **USU Reinvestment Contribution: \$250,000**
- **Ongoing Request: \$2 million**



# Strategic Goals: Moving Forward

1

---

## Statewide Impact

Expanding our reach across Utah by strengthening educational access, supporting economic mobility, and ensuring Extension remains strong and relevant for every community.

3

---

## Discovery with Purpose

Advancing research and innovation that address real-world challenges across land and water, air and energy, space and defense, agriculture and AI, and the intersection of technology and human well-being.

2

---

## Student Success & Value

Focusing unapologetically on degree completion and on delivering a meaningful return on investment for every student.

4

---

## Civic Responsibility

Leading with authenticity and integrity while fostering civic-minded graduates and championing thoughtful dialogue and the pursuit of peace.



An aerial photograph of the Utah State University campus in Logan, Utah. The image shows a mix of historic stone buildings and modern glass-fronted structures, interspersed with green lawns and trees. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a sky with scattered clouds. The sun is low on the horizon to the left, creating a warm glow.

# **Unlocking the Future: Utah State University's Research Impact**



**UtahStateUniversity**

*February 5, 2026*

---

## Utah State Research: An Economic Engine

- Between FY 2020-2024, USU directed **\$88.6 million in research spending** to vendors and partners across the state showcasing local economic impact.
  - During 2024, Utah State University's federal and nonfederal research generated over \$25.4 million in expenditures on research-related goods and services in Utah.
- Utah State University's federal and non-federal research-related goods and services expenditures exceeded \$52.8 million during 2024 and included transactions with vendors in 425 US counties.

### Local Vendor Support

Contracts with businesses, from Main Street to specialized suppliers.

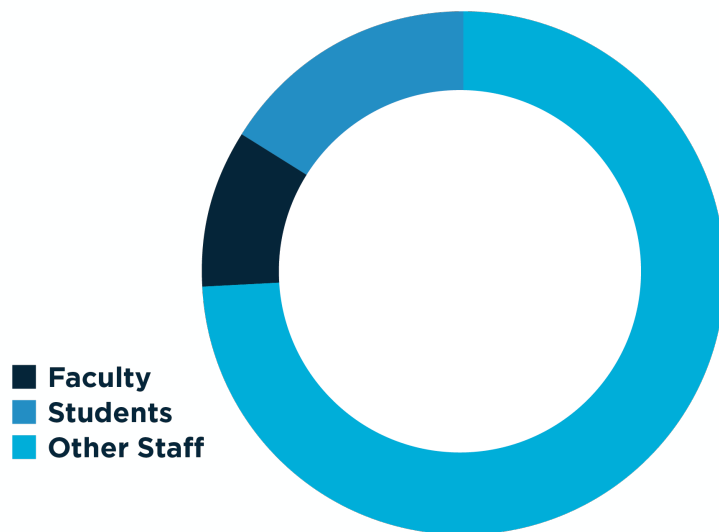
### Educational Partnerships

Collaboration with school districts and higher education institutions.

### Community Services

Investment in healthcare, social services, and public administration.

# Federal Research Investment & Workforce Impact



## Top 5 Federal Research Funding Agencies, by Employment



### Dept. of Interior

Natural resources research



### USDA

U.S. Department of Agriculture



### ACF

Administration for Children and Families



### Dept. of Education

Supporting educational research



### NSF

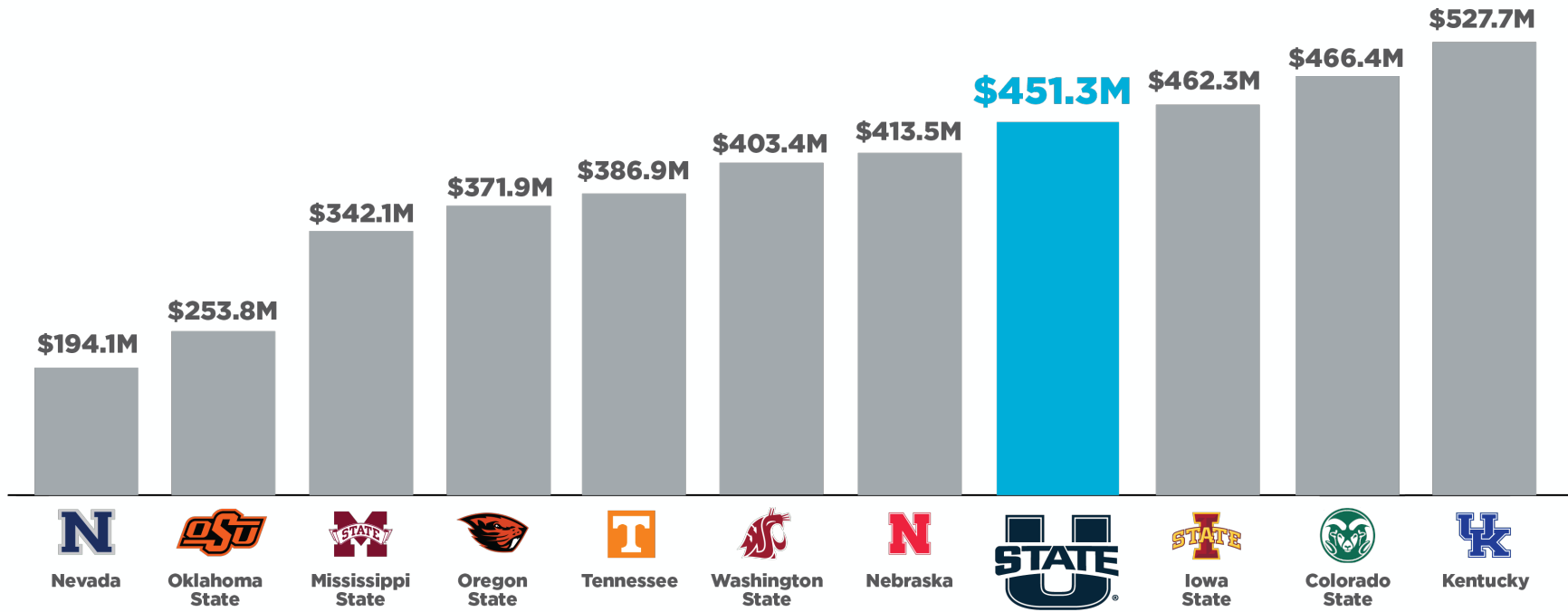
National Science Foundation

In FY 2024, **2,761 people** were employed on federally funded research grants at Utah State University, including **365 faculty members** and **592 students** gaining invaluable experience.



# Research Excellence & Innovation

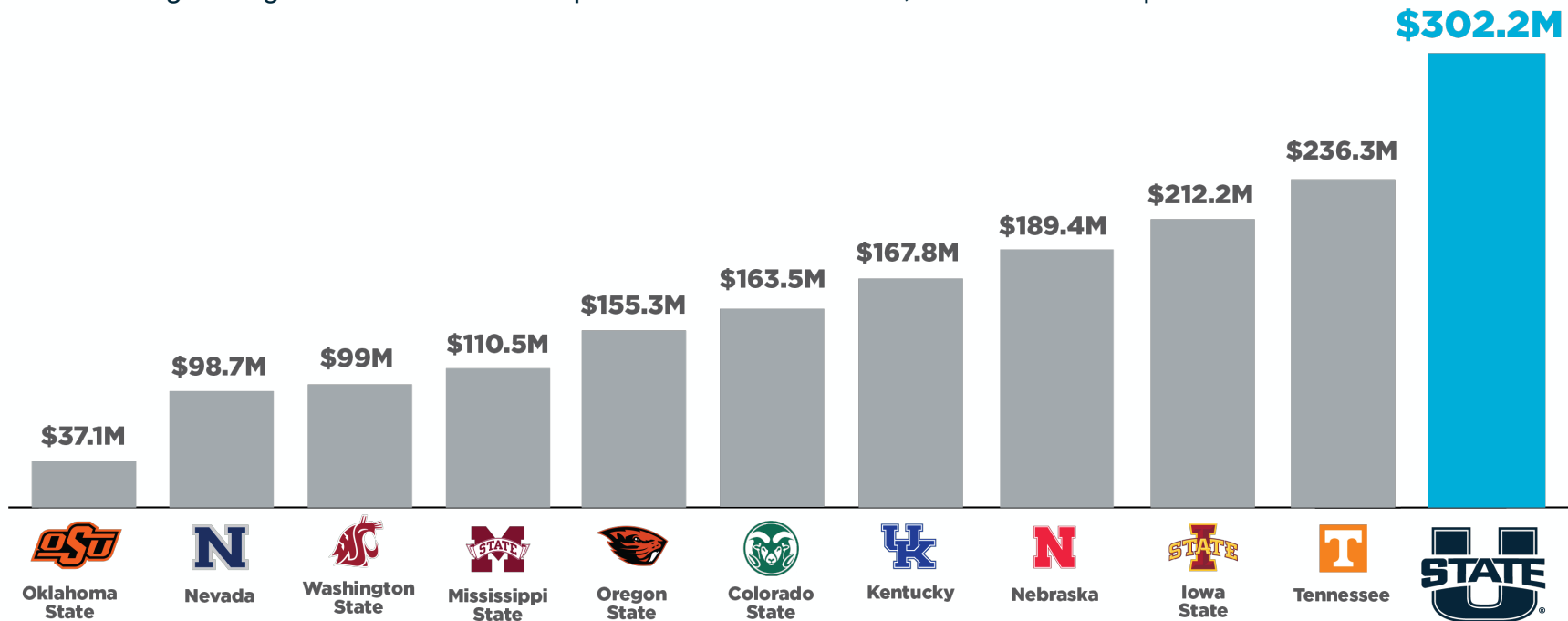
Total higher education R&D expenditures USU vs national peers; FY 2024



Source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Higher Education Research and Development Survey (Nebraska is estimated using historical averages)

# Fastest growing R&D

Total change in higher education R&D expenditures: FYs 2010-22; USU vs national peers.



Source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Higher Education Research and Development Survey (Nebraska is estimated using historical averages)

---

## Undergraduate Research

- **2nd oldest** undergraduate research program in the nation
- **1,300 students** participated in undergraduate research programs
- Since 2022, USU has provided **over \$1 million directly to students** through research fellowships, grants, and internships



---

# AI-Driven Infrastructure Innovation



## Strategic Partnerships

Collaborating with UIPA, UDOT, 47G, and industry leaders to advance freight operations and grid resiliency.



## 2034 Olympics Showcase

Developing advanced air taxis and drones to be demonstrated during the 2034 Utah Olympics on the global stage.



## Active Implementation

Implementing pilot programs and workforce development initiatives to prove ROI and environmental benefits.





The instrument enclosure of NASA's Near-Earth Object Surveyor.

## Planetary Defense: Protecting Earth

USU's Space Dynamics Laboratory plays a **mission-critical role in NASA's planetary defense system**, detecting and tracking hazardous Near-Earth Objects using advanced space-based infrared technology.

- 1 of 14 federal University Affiliated Research Centers - UARC (Office of the Asst Sec'y of the Air Force for Space Acquisition)
- **\$354M in annual revenue.**
- Delivering cutting-edge tech for **national security** and supporting **NASA's cosmic exploration.**
- **84% of SDL's work** directly supports the DOW and other federal national security organizations with **advanced defense technologies.**

