



Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
Taylor Randall  
President, University of Utah  
Thursday, February 5, 2026



# A BOLD 250 YEAR EXPERIMENT





**“Freedom can exist only in the society of knowledge. Without learning, men [and women] are incapable of knowing their rights, and where learning is confined to a few people, liberty can be neither equal nor universal.”**

-Benjamin Rush, founder of Dickinson College 1786  
Signer of the Declaration of Independence



# EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

1776

1

FOCUS ON NATION BUILDING / FUNDAMENTAL ACADEMICS





# EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

1776

1930

1

2

FOCUS ON RESEARCH / ACADEMIC MEDICINE

FOCUS ON NATION BUILDING / FUNDAMENTAL ACADEMICS





# EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

1776

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2

3

FOCUS ON SOCIETAL IMPACT

FOCUS ON RESEARCH / ACADEMIC MEDICINE

FOCUS ON NATION BUILDING / FUNDAMENTAL ACADEMICS





# OUR VISION

## Impact 2030 Strategy

**To improve the life of every Utahn and advance a new national higher education model for delivering societal impact.**

### IMPACT UNIVERSITY

- **Entrepreneurial**
- **Partnerships**
- **Outward Facing**
- **Solution Driven**







# **ACADEMICS**



# EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

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FOCUS ON NATION BUILDING / FUNDAMENTAL ACADEMICS





# CIVICS INITIATIVE

- Announced, **presidential initiative on federalism, law, and American governance**, January 26, 2026
  - Emphasizing **foundational tenets** through research, teaching and public engagement efforts
  - West Virginia University President Emeritus **Gordon Gee** and Harvard Kennedy School Professor **Arthur C. Brooks**
- **Debate Across the Curriculum** engaging 20 faculty, 25 classes reaching more than 1,000 students

## REFOCUS ON FUNDAMENTALS



“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin



# INCREASING ENROLLMENT

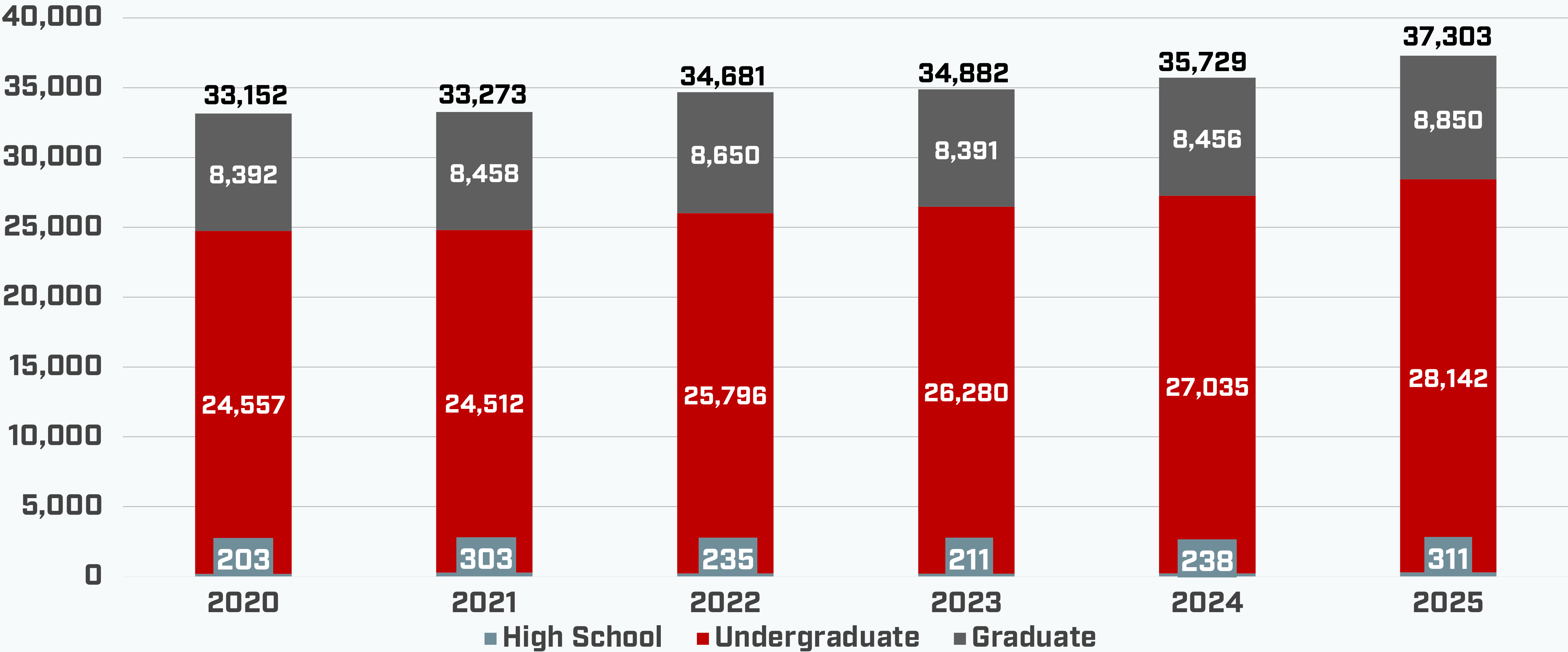
- Fall 2025 marked the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of growth
- 1,300 newly transferred students
- 6% increase of first-time resident enrollment from 2024
- Total enrollment eclipsed 38,000 in fall 2025-26



Annual Block U Photo, Fall 2025



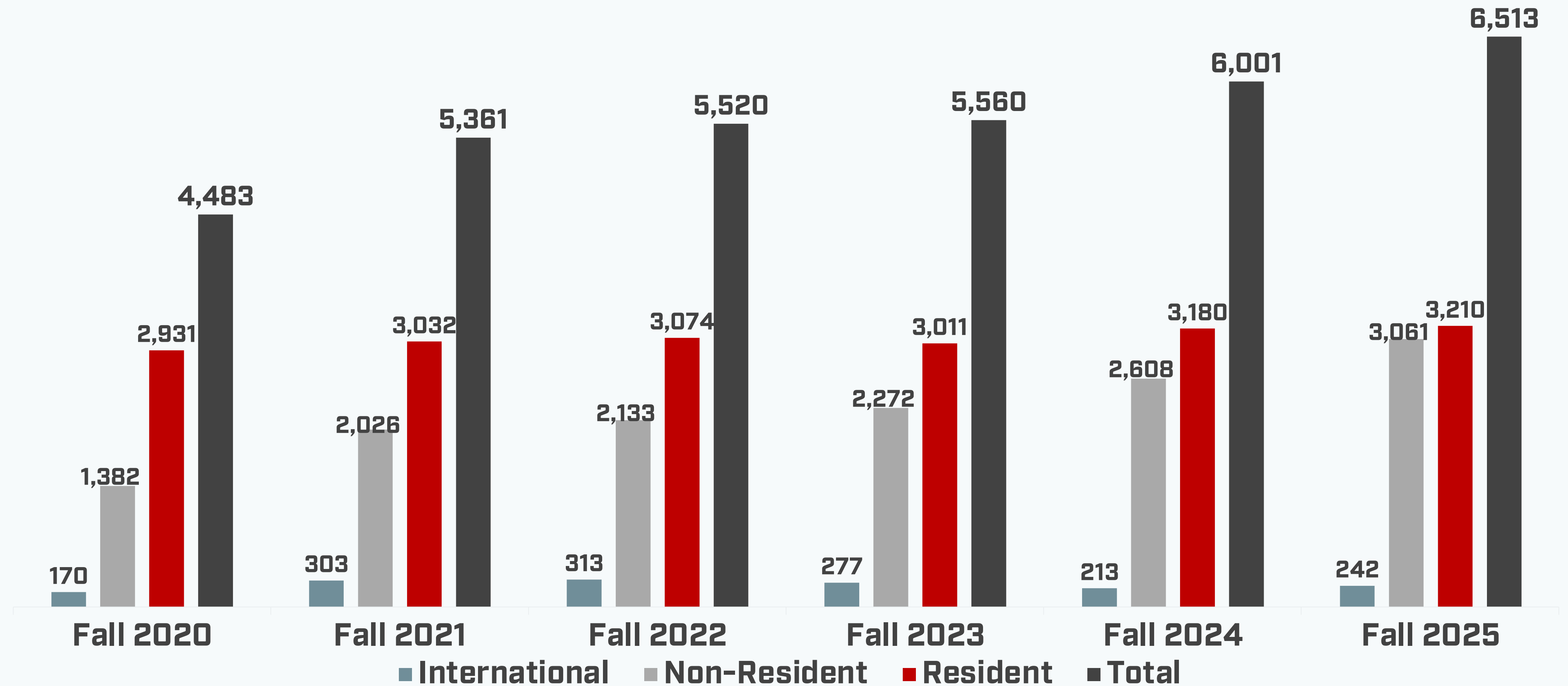
# TOTAL HEADCOUNT MIX



Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



# FIRST-YEAR HEADCOUNT



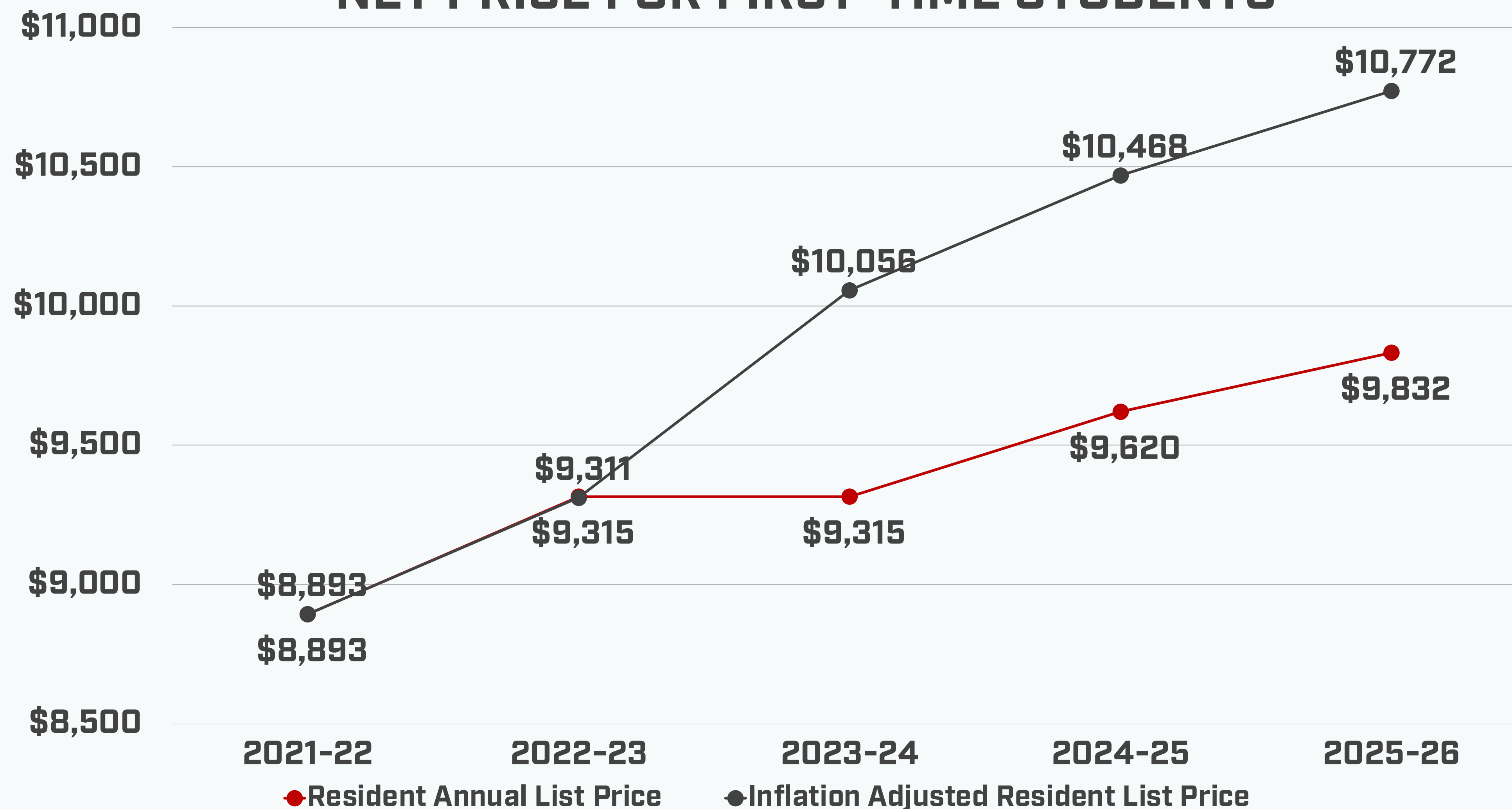
Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)





# LIST PRICE TUITION & INFLATION

## NET PRICE FOR FIRST-TIME STUDENTS



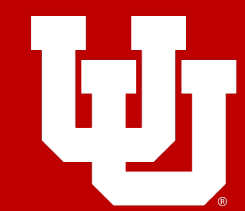
Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



# STUDENT AID SUMMARY

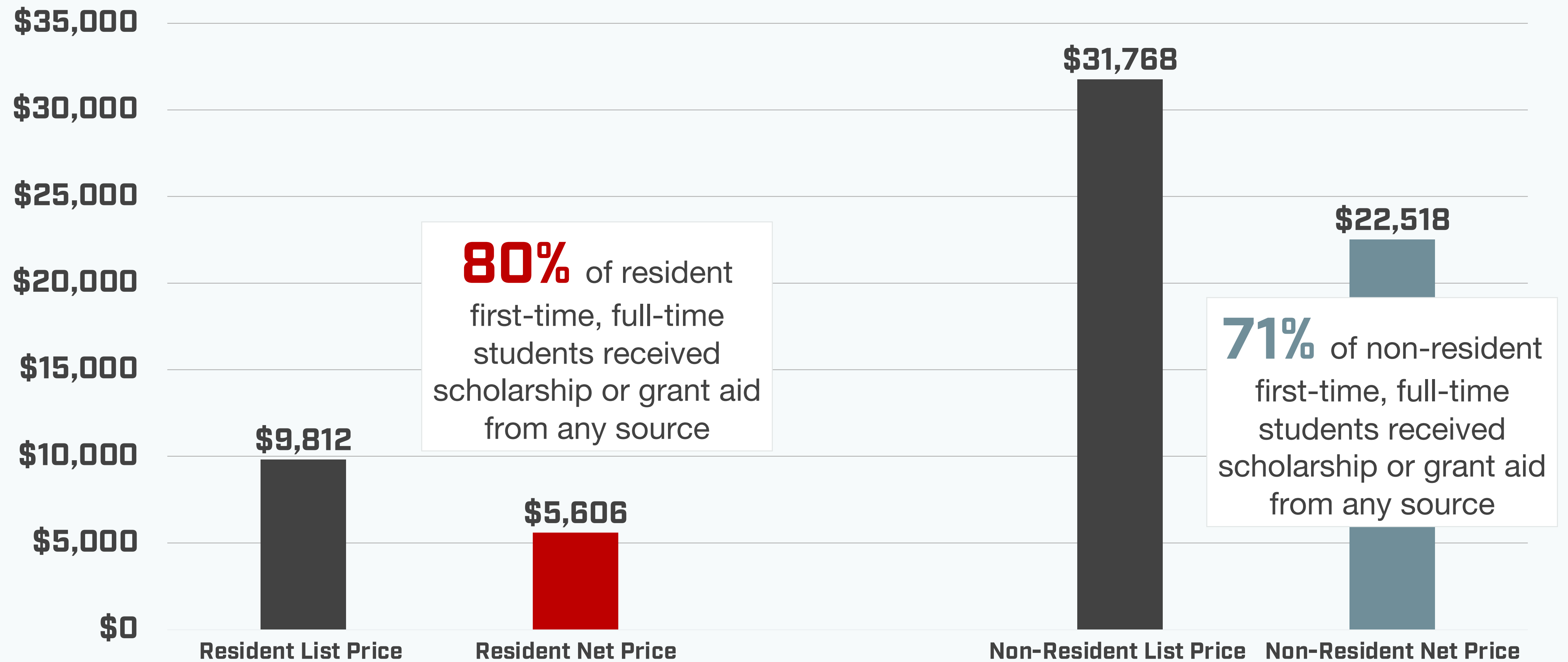
2024-25	RESIDENT Undergraduate	NON-RESIDENT Undergraduate	TOTAL
Federal Gift Aid	\$32,920,000	\$4,420,000	\$37,340,000
State Gift Aid (Utah)	\$5,650,000	\$0	\$5,650,000
Funded Institutional Awards	\$22,240,000	\$4,160,000	\$26,380,000
Other Outside Gift Aid	\$7,110,000	\$4,320,000	\$11,430,000
TOTAL	\$67,920,000	\$12,900,000	\$80,800,000

Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



# TUITION AND FEES

## LIST & NET PRICE FOR FIRST-TIME STUDENTS 2025-2026



Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)





# UTAH PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

**BEGINNING FALL 2026**



[admissions.utah.edu](https://admissions.utah.edu)

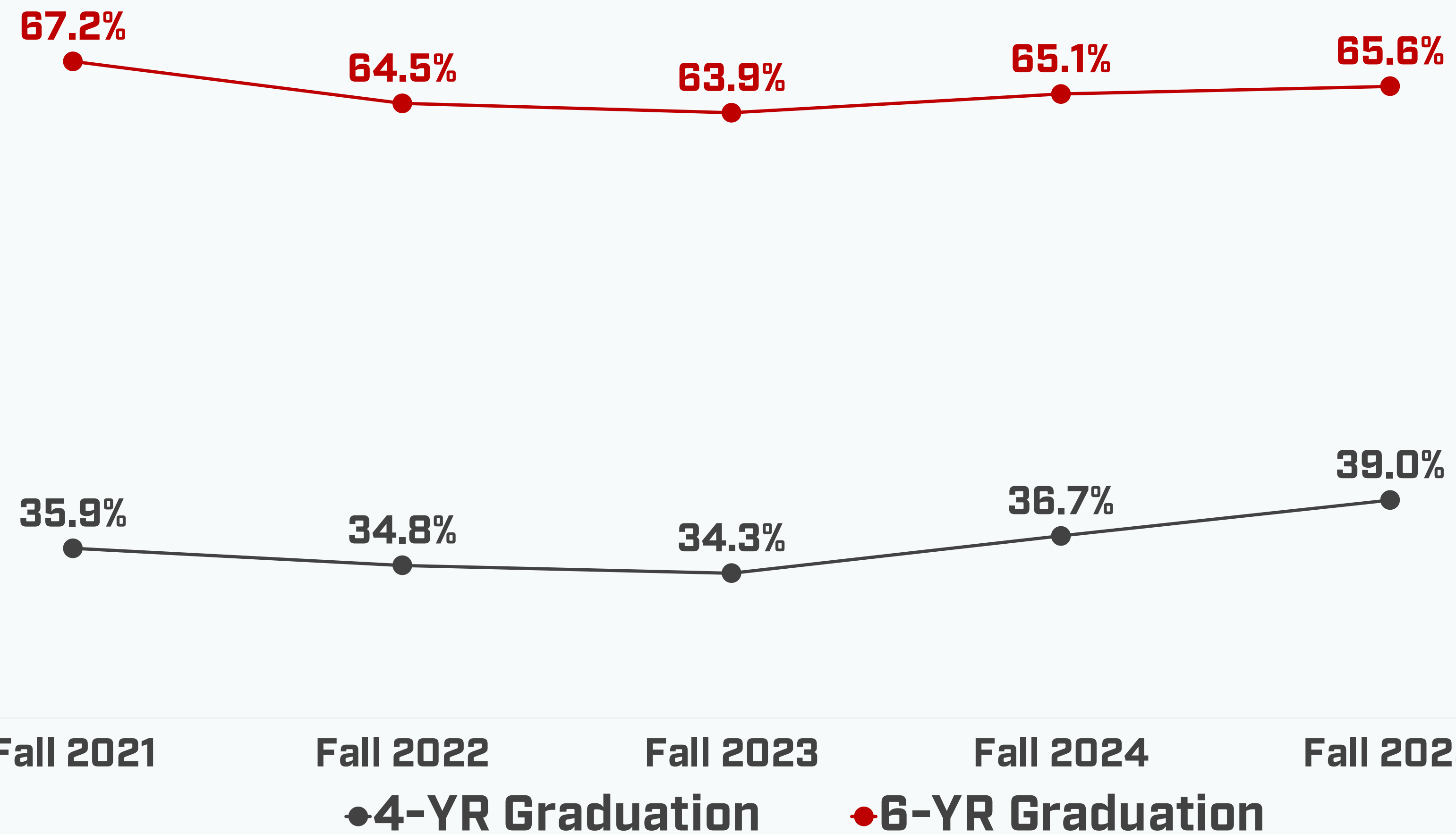
- **Covers full tuition and mandatory fees**
- **Utah residents, 3.5+ GPA**
- **First-time, first-year students**
- **Annual family income and assets each totaling less than \$100,000\***

\*As determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



# IMPROVING GRADUATION RATE

## FIRST-TIME, FIRST-YEAR, FULL-TIME GRADUATION RATES

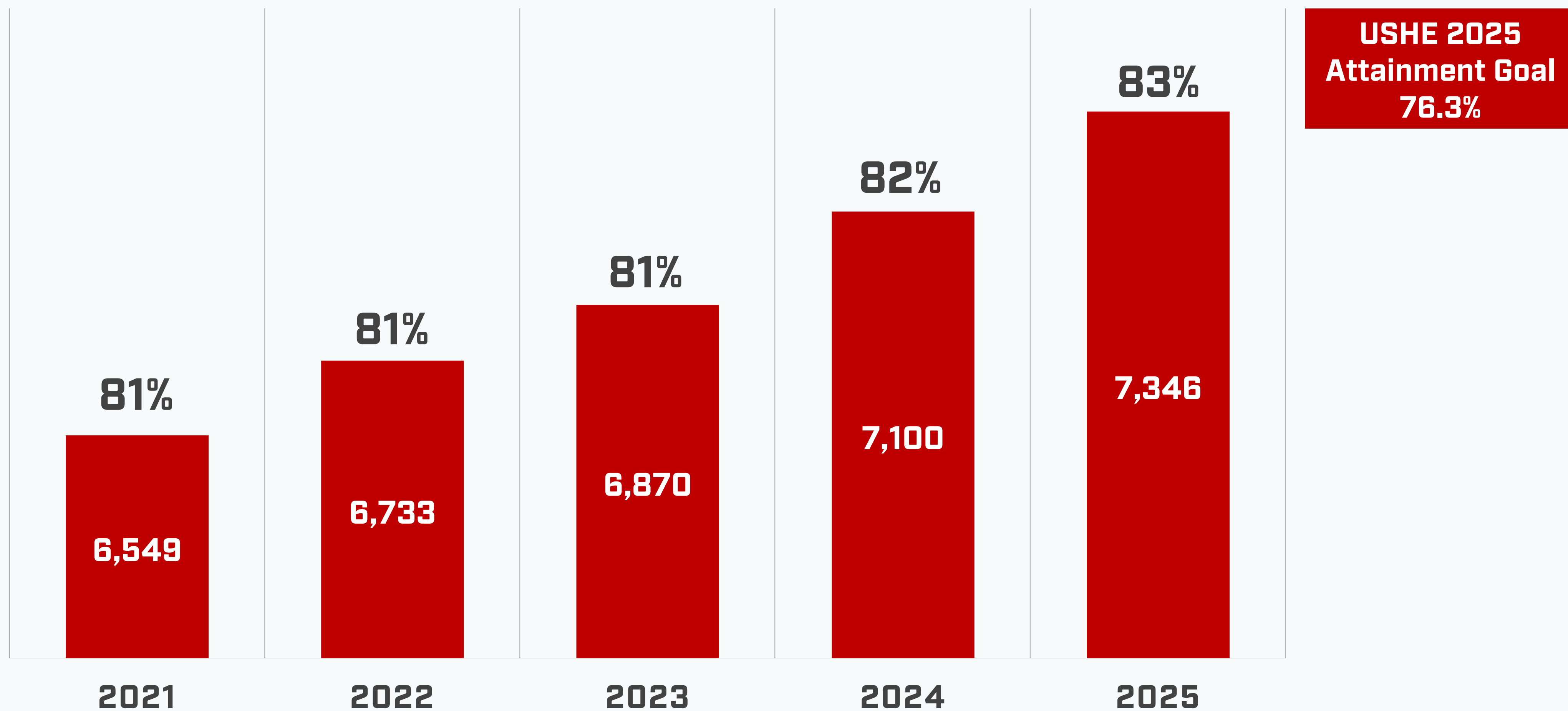


Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



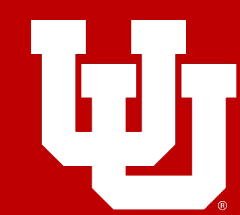
# HIGH-YIELD WORKFORCE DEGREES

## HIGH YIELD\* GRADUATES & AWARD RATE



\*Students who graduate with an award that maps to a 4- or 5-Star occupation identified by Utah Department of Work Services.

Source: Utah System of Higher Education

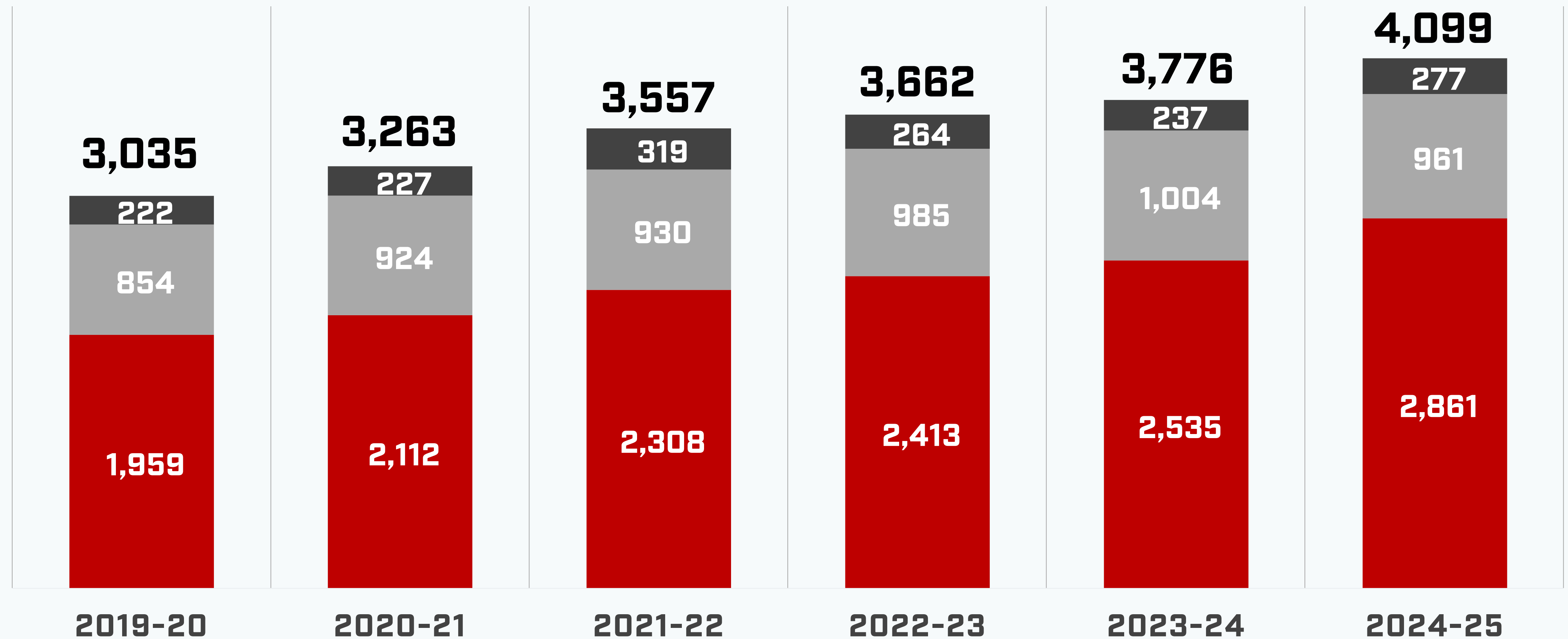




# HIGH-YIELD WORKFORCE DEGREES

## STEM DEGREES AWARDED

■ Bachelors ■ Masters ■ Doctorate



Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



# 2024-25 AVERAGE SALARIES

**\$65,000**

Self-reported annual salary for  
University of Utah bachelors  
degree recipients

**\$48,600**

Utah median 2024

Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)





# JOB PLACEMENT OUTCOMES

**86%** resident grads employed  
within a year of graduation

**56%** non-resident grads  
employed or attending graduate school  
in Utah within a year of graduation

**75%** employed graduates are  
employed in Utah

Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



U grads are significantly earning more than the Utah median.





**QUESTIONS?**







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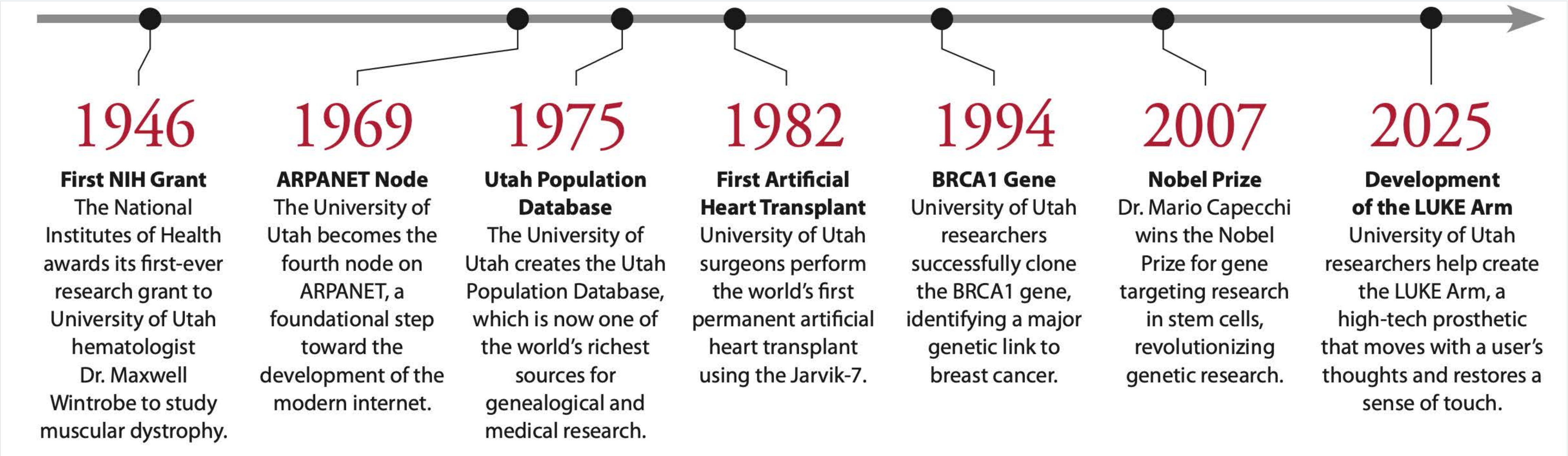
FOCUS ON RESEARCH / ACADEMIC MEDICINE

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# HISTORY OF U RESEARCH

## SELECT RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS



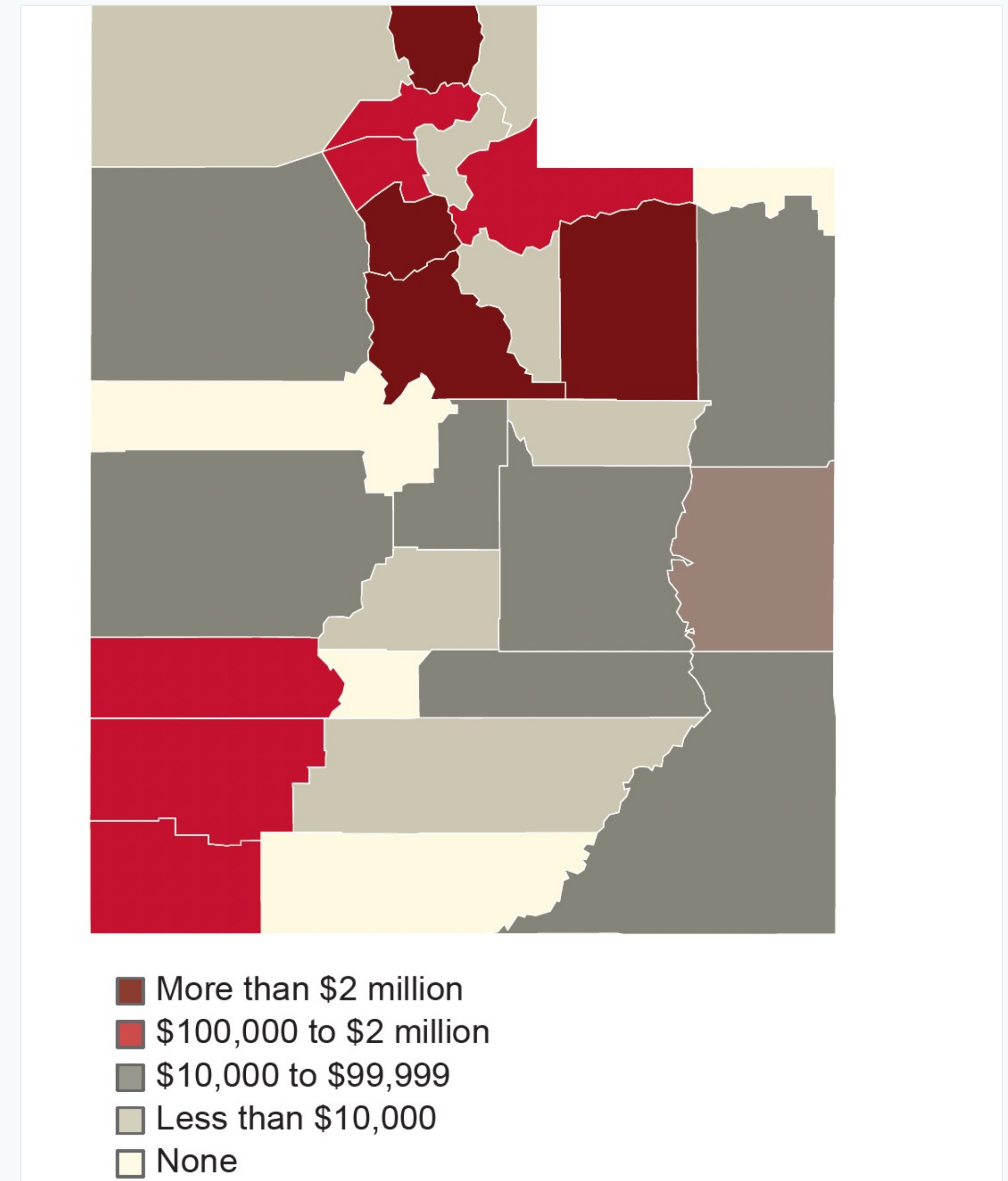
Source: University of Utah, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute



# LEADING IN RESEARCH

- **Research Spending:** The U's research expenditures across the state totaled \$734 million in FY2025, the most of any year on record
- **Statewide Reach:** U research funding supports activity in 25 of Utah's 29 counties
- **National Ranking:** The U ranks among the nation's top 50 research universities for research and development spending

Source: University of Utah, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute



University of Utah Vendor and Subaward Research  
Expenditures to Utah Counties, FY2024.





# RESEARCH IS A MULTIPLIER

## U of U Research

Boosts the Economy and  
Creates Jobs

12,760  
Employees

### Economic Activity FY 2025

**\$584M**  
Earnings

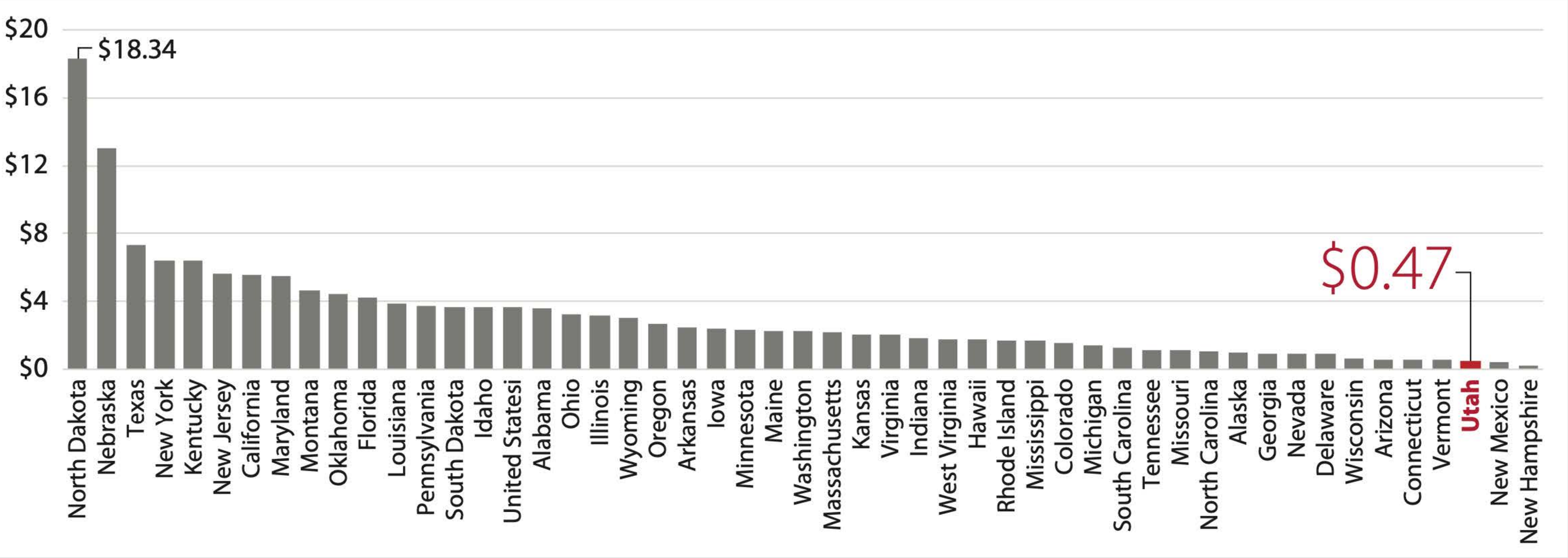
**\$805M**  
GDP

**\$1.6B**  
Output

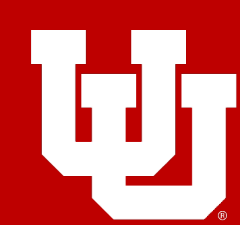


# INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH

STATE PER CAPITA \$M INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH



Source: University of Utah, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, FY2023



**Erin Rothwell**

Vice President for Research  
University of Utah



# ROBUST & COMPETITIVE

## FY2025 RESEARCH AT SCALE

**3,696**

PROPOSALS

**2,577**

AWARDS

**\$782M**

FUNDING

**\$3.27B**

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

This robust research base is what enables both groundbreaking discovery and applied, use-inspired research that serves the state.

Source: University of Utah: Office of the Vice President for Research

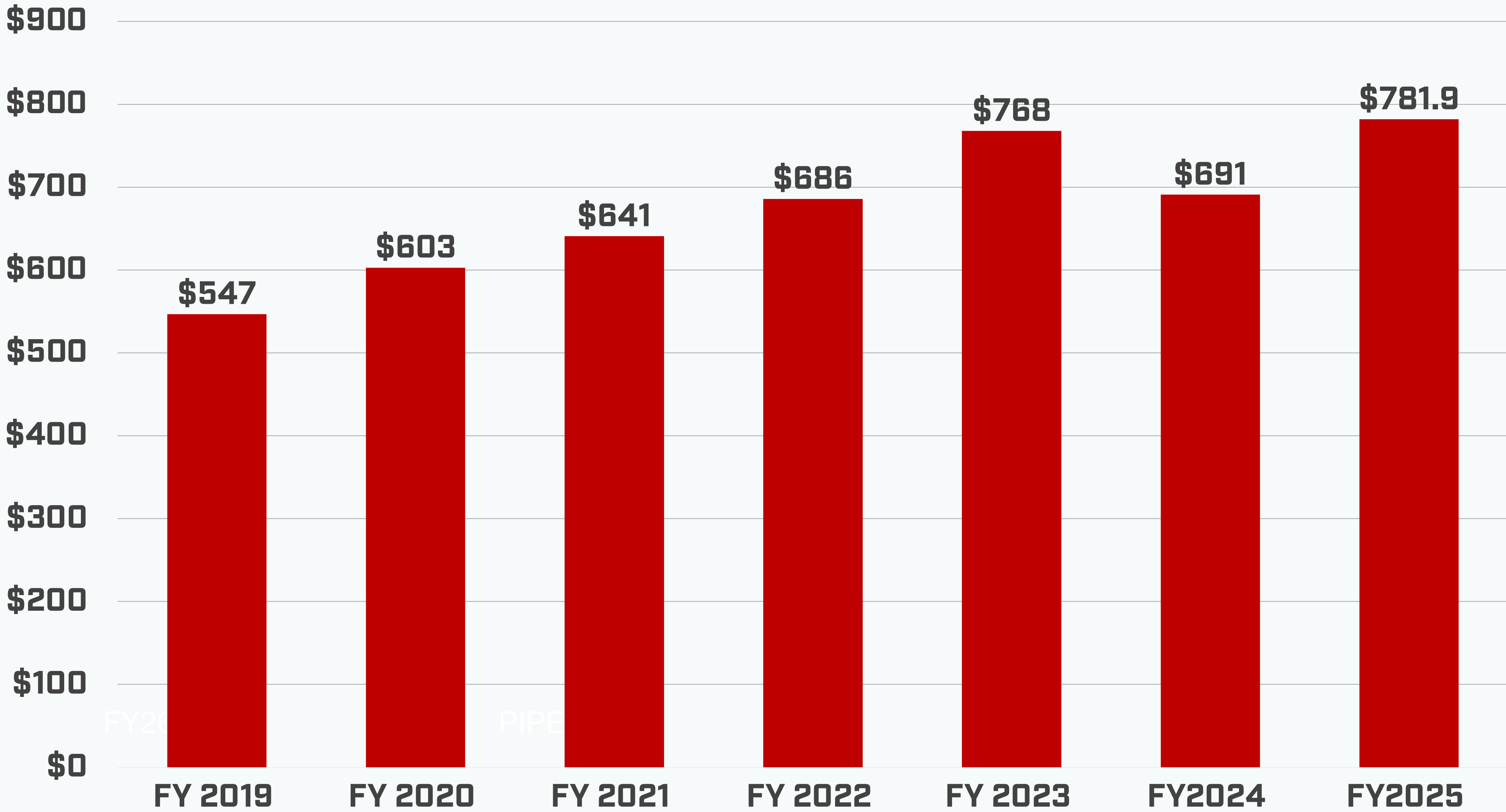


In 2025 Luke Arm in clinical trials to test day-to-day use.



# FUNDING AWARDS

Millions

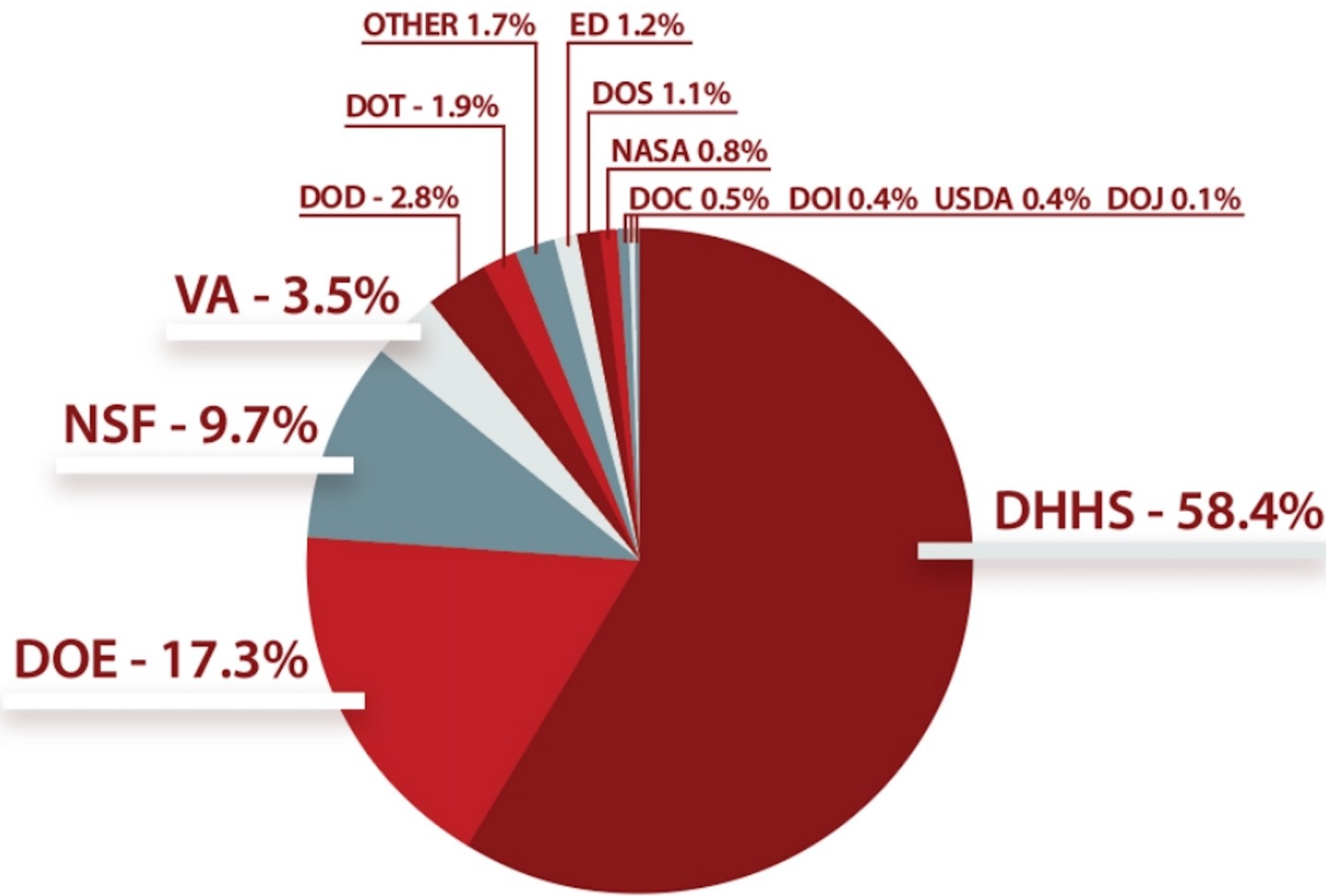


Source: University of Utah: Office of the Vice President for Research

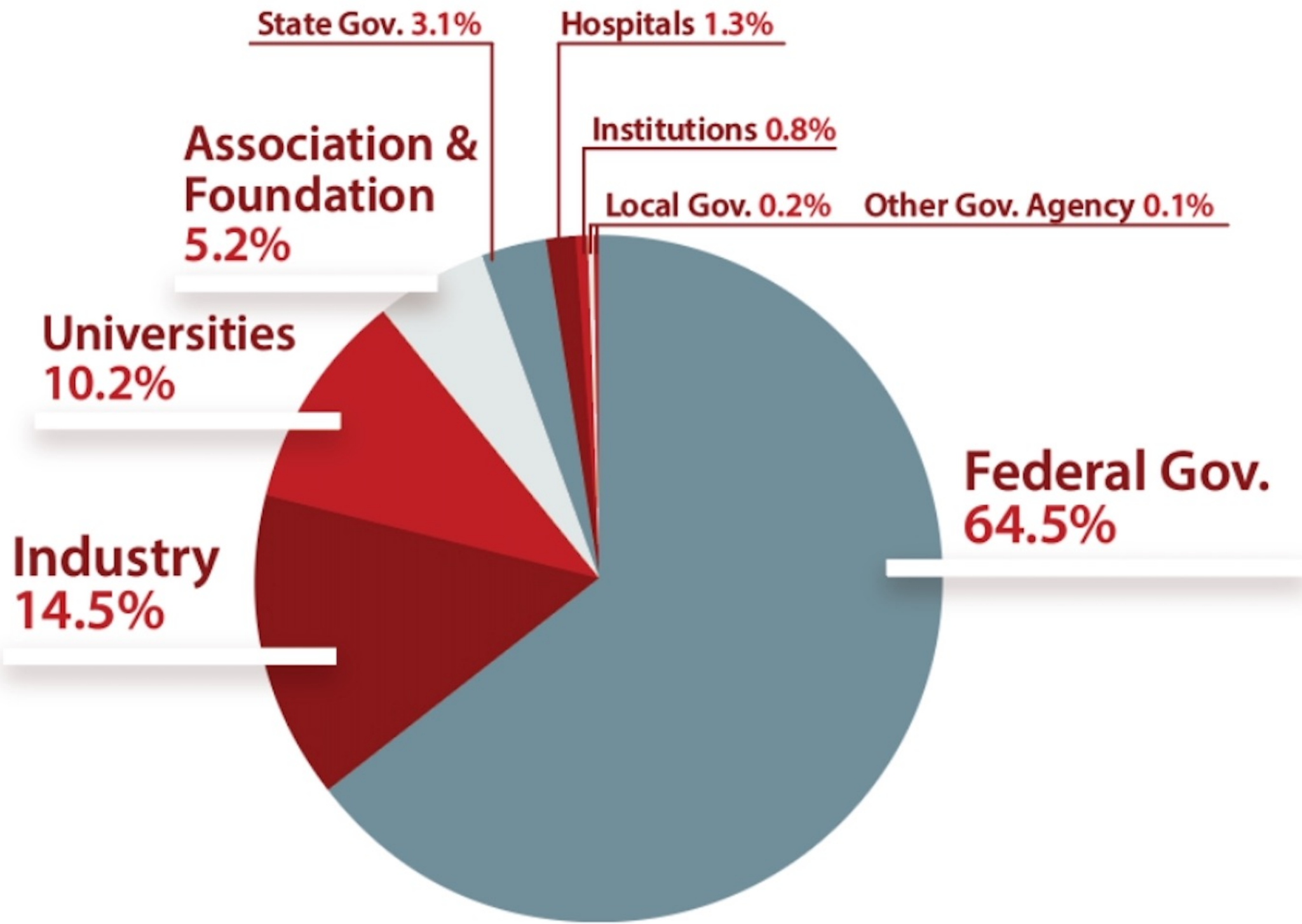


# FUNDING SOURCES

FEDERAL SPONSORS



ALL SPONSORS



In FY25, the University of Utah received \$781.9 million in research funding, support that spans health, technology, and society, touching every corner of discovery.

Source: University of Utah: Office of the Vice President for Research





# DISCOVERY TO IMPACT

FY25 INVENTIONS

542

FY26 STARTUPS

LAUNCHED

9

IN PIPELINE

31

Source: University of Utah: Office of the Vice President for Research



Dr. Wes Sundquist's revolutionary therapeutic Lenacapavir was featured on TIME's Best Inventions of 2025 list.



# UTAH'S INNOVATION ENGINE

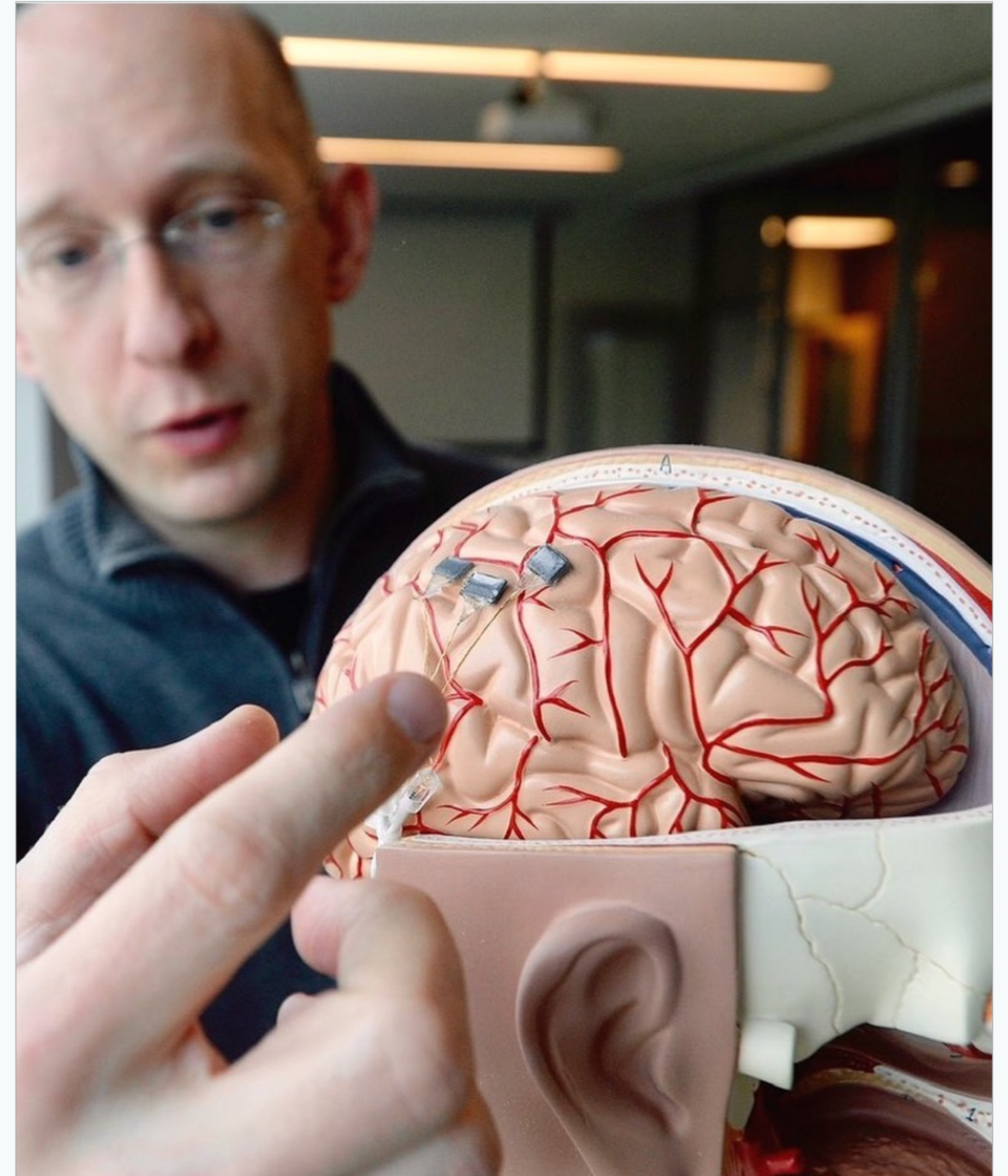
**#1**

in the nation for innovation  
capacity & outcomes

**#2**

nationally in likelihood of  
producing a unicorn startup

Source: University of Utah: Office of the Vice President for Research




Blackrock Neurotech brain-computer interface technology received the FDA's coveted "Breakthrough Device" designation.

**QUESTIONS?**







**SOCIETAL IMPACT**

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# BUDGET UPDATES

2025



# UTU-U PARTNERSHIP

## 2025 Funding Request Update

**Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine partnership with Utah Tech University in St. George.**

- Enrolling 10 student cohort: Fall 2026



Southern Utah Regional Medical Campus (SURMC)





# HCI 2<sup>nd</sup> CAMPUS IN VINEYARD

## 2025 Funding Request Update

### Huntsman Cancer Institute's second Comprehensive Cancer Center.

- Groundbreaking: April 8, 2025
- Opening to patients: 2028



Groundbreaking of Huntsman Cancer Institute  
Vineyard Campus, April 8, 2025



# ECCLES HEALTH CAMPUS IN WEST VALLEY

## 2025 Funding Request Update

### Eccles Health Campus & Eccles Hospital in West Valley.

- Groundbreaking: June 13, 2025
- Opening to patients: 2028
- In-patient Hospital: 2029



Groundbreaking for the Eccles Health Campus & Eccles Hospital in West Valley, June 13, 2025



# H.B. 265 REINVESTMENTS

## PHASE 1 PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC CUTS AND REINVESTMENTS

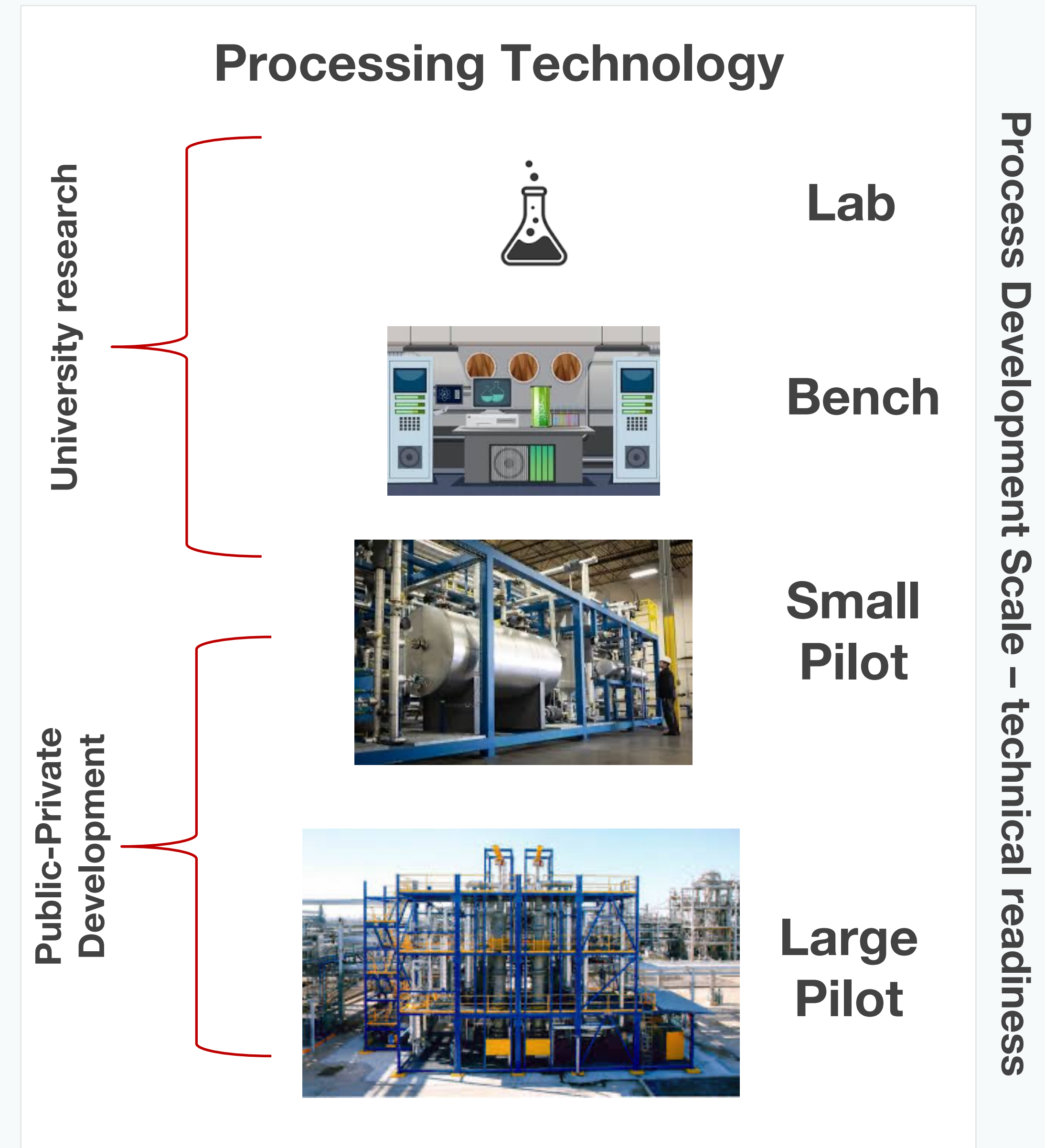
PHASE 1 FY26 Reallocation & Reinvestment Line Items	
AI	\$2,032,736
BIOTECHNOLOGY	\$300,000
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	\$297,052
ENGINEERING	\$2,699,750
NURSING & SIMULATION	\$686,455
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	\$1,393,783
FINANCIAL PLANNING	\$642,500
TOTALS	\$8,052,276

Phase 1 Highlights. Reported to the Higher Education Appropriations Committee August 19, 2025



# CRITICAL MINERALS

- **\$12.5M** in active federal grants
- **Core partner** in Utah's critical minerals ecosystem
- **On-campus processing capabilities** to convert raw ores into critical metals
- **Academic programs and talent pipeline** focused on critical minerals disciplines
- Proven **grant development expertise**



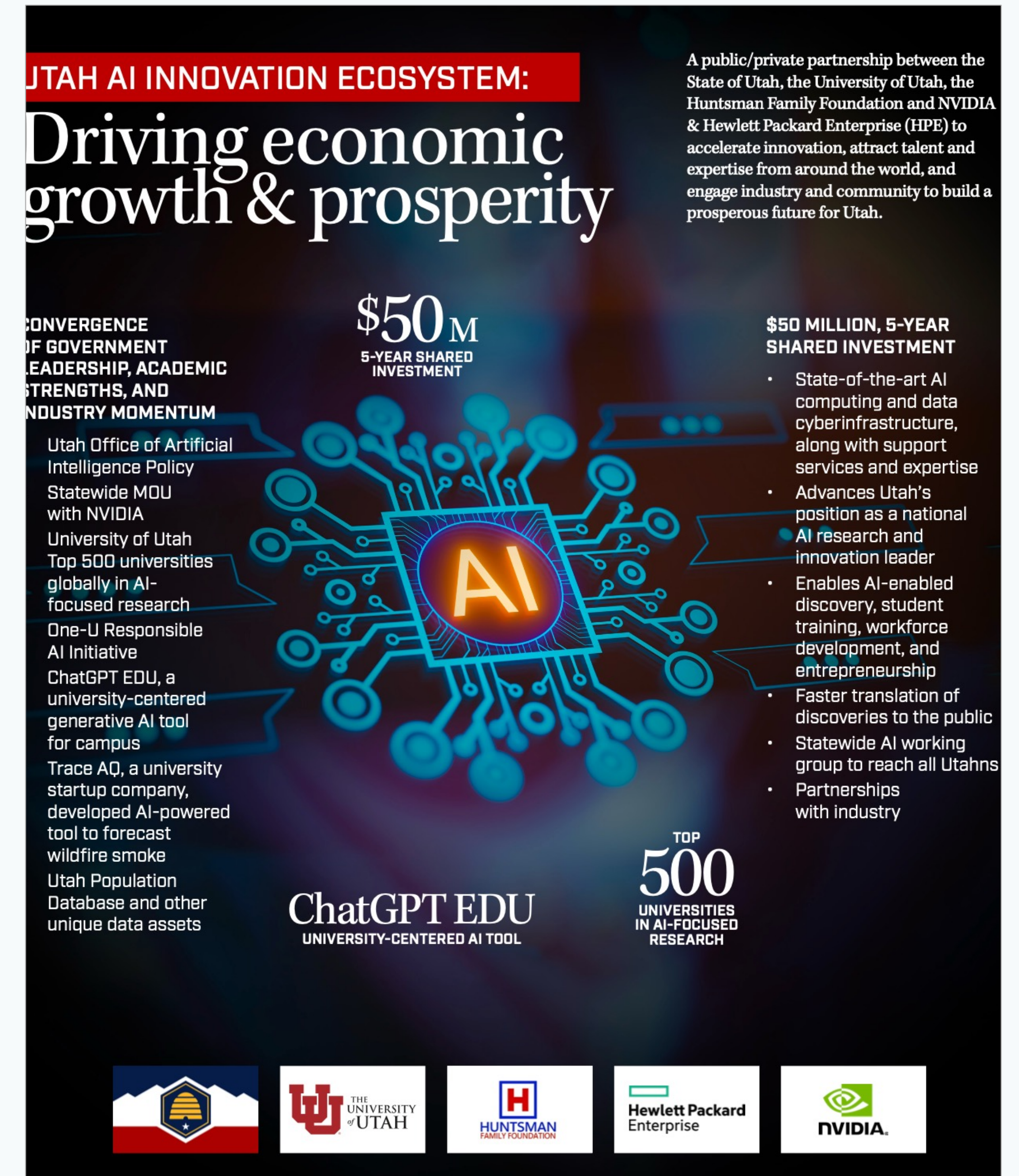
The U has a history of expertise and proven ability to facilitate critical minerals research & development.





# AI COMPUTING ECOSYSTEM

- \$50 million, 5-year shared investment
- State-of-the-art AI computing and data cyberinfrastructure, **3.5x compute power**
- Advances Utah's position as a national AI research and innovation leader
- Enables AI-enabled discovery, student training, workforce development, and entrepreneurship



Growing cyberinfrastructure via public private partnership.





# AI-ENABLED DISCOVERY

- U researchers have identified **50+ inherited cancer-causing genes**
- A global leader in genetics research, **built on decades of discovery** (Nobel Prize, Mario Capecchi, 2007)
- A major **opportunity for Utah to lead** in genetics and precision health
- **Secure, AI-enabled platform** combining genealogy and disease data

## UTAH HEALTH AI VAULT (UHAIV)

### Utah

Genealogy on 11,000,000+ people

### Health

Longitudinal health data

### Artificial Intelligence

State-of-the-art technology

### Vault

World-class digital security



Empowering researchers with state-of-the-art tools to unlock new discovery for disease treatments.



# EXPANDING THE CARE PIPELINE

- Expanding physician **training and retention** in **southern Utah**
- Increasing the number of physicians who **train, remain, and practice** in **rural communities**
- This funding would add at least **10 new medical residents per year** in southern Utah
- Accelerates entry into care workforce through a **three-year M.D. program**



Creating a direct pipeline from medical school into rural residency programs and long-term practice.



# BUDGET REQUESTS

2026



# 2026 REQUEST SUMMARY

DESCRIPTION		REQUEST DURATION	REQUEST AMOUNT
#1.	<b>AI COMPUTING ECOSYSTEM</b>		
	U, HPE-Nvidia, Huntsman Family Foundation Public Private Partnership	ongoing state	\$5 million
	University of Utah support	5 years	\$3 million
	Huntsman Family Foundation match	5 years	\$2 million
#2	<b>AI-ENABLED DISCOVERY</b>		
	Utah Health AI Vault (UHAIV)	one time state	\$18.6 million
	University of Utah support	one time	\$12.3 million
#3	<b>EXPANDING THE CARE PIPELINE</b>		
	Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine Expansion in Southern Utah	ongoing state	\$2.59 million
		one time state	\$750,000



**THANK YOU.  
QUESTIONS?**

