Growing Student Body

Iowa State continues to provide an excellent educational experience to its growing student body.

- 105 new faculty, including 30 Presidential High Impact Hires with expertise in “big data” and translational health
- New housing: new buildings open in Fredrickson Court, and planning underway for a new 700-bed facility near Buchanan Hall
- New facilities, including Sukup Hall and Elings Hall, and the Jeff and Deb Hansen Agriculture Student Learning Center; and renovations to Lagomarcino, MacKay, Horticulture, and Physics halls
- Detailed planning underway for biosciences facilities project supporting students and faculty in six departments: Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology; Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology; Entomology; Genetics, Development and Cell Biology; Natural Resource Ecology and Management; and Plant Pathology and Microbiology
- More CyRide buses, dining options, a major WiFi upgrade, and 15 new academic advisers
- 80 learning communities, including a new community for veterans
- Plans to move 100,000 square feet of administrative space off campus, and repurposing space in Memorial Union to better serve student and faculty needs
- Construction underway for Jack Trice Stadium expansion, new campus entrance

Growing Research Programs

Iowa State faculty perform cutting-edge research that addresses challenges to our state, our nation, and our world.

- $368 million in external research funding in FY2014; federal awards up 22%
- Presidential Initiative for Interdisciplinary Research has led to $133 million in new grant applications, nearly $11 million in new funding to Iowa State, and an additional $10 million in subcontracts to university researchers
- Iowa State a Tier I partner in the $320 million Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute
- Students and faculty in three colleges are working to combat cyber attacks in the CyberCorps program, funded with $2.4 million from the National Science Foundation; Iowa State is also a National Security Agency Center of Academic Excellence in cybersecurity
- The Critical Materials Institute, a $120 million program led by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Ames Laboratory, disclosed 11 inventions in its first year
- Psychology researchers demonstrated that limiting kids’ screen time leads to better grades and behavior, and more sleep

Carolyn Lawrence, associate professor of genetics, development, and cell biology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was selected as a 2014 Presidential High-Impact Hire in the area of big data. Lawrence, who formerly worked with the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service, is creating new data tools for plant breeders, an innovation that could speed the development of new stress-resistant crop varieties.

Adam Schwartz became director of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Ames Laboratory in June. The Lab recently broke ground on a new Sensitive Instrument Facility at Iowa State’s Applied Sciences Complex which will house six bays that eliminate vibration and electromagnetic interference that can affect the accuracy of microscopes scientists use to conduct research at the atomic level.
Growing Economic Development Impact

Iowa State is an engine for economic development, partnering with Iowa businesses small and large to help them grow.

- Mike Crum named vice president for economic development and business engagement
- The Research Park has grown by 200 acres in FY2014, led by Workiva, Vermeer; the number of employees working in the Park has nearly doubled in four years, to 1,400
- Redeveloping Campustown with Kingland Systems, City of Ames
- 1,280 businesses from 94 Iowa counties worked with the Center for Industrial Research and Service last year, generating $446 million in total economic impact, and adding or retaining 6,800 jobs
- The Small Business Development Center worked with more than 2,500 clients in 2013, helping start 209 new businesses, add 1,130 jobs, and raise nearly $48 million in capital
- Iowa State’s 2013 graduates enjoyed a 95% placement rate within six months of graduation; 67% of Iowa students, 23% of nonresidents, and 24% of international students remained in Iowa to begin their professional or academic careers
- Mary Beth Kaufman received Iowa State’s R.K. Bliss Extension Award for her work helping Iowans with flood recovery, mental health, and poverty reduction

Growing Diversity and Achievement

Iowa State is committed to fostering an inclusive campus, while improving access and retention for low-income students.

- Record diversity on campus - U.S. multicultural and international students represent 23% of the student body
- A comprehensive diversity report, and a report from the University Committee on Women, has led to the planned hiring of a chief diversity officer to enhance Iowa State’s inclusive culture
- Black Faculty and Staff Association, LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Association, and the Colegas association for Hispanic faculty and staff work to create a welcoming environment on campus
- Iowa State joined 10 other public universities in an alliance to close the achievement gap and increase graduation rates for students from all backgrounds
- Working with the Education Advisory Board on predictive analytics to improve completion rates for at-risk students
- Iowa State’s Science Bound program, which encourages underrepresented students to pursue careers in STEM fields, serves 400 students each year in Denison, Des Moines, and Marshalltown
- A team of Iowa State graduate students topped 98 other universities from 28 countries to become the first U.S. team to win the 15th Annual Prudsys AG Data Mining Cup

Growing Facilities

Iowa Governor Terry Branstad helped break ground in September for a new economic development core facility in the ISU Research Park. The facility, supported by $12 million in state funding, will be a hub for all of Iowa State’s economic development activities.

The Jeff and Deb Hansen Agriculture Student Learning Center opened in January, and was dedicated in August. The Center is a versatile, multipurpose animal agriculture resource accessible to students campus-wide.

Sukup Hall and Elings Hall, home of the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, and phase two of Iowa State’s Biorenewables Complex, opened for students in August.