

May 1, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

As the spring 2020 semester winds down, I want to take a moment to celebrate. Despite a set of incredible challenges, you – our students, faculty, and staff – have excelled. These are a few selected outstanding achievements during the course of the spring semester:

1. It's no longer a tie for first – Iowa State University's graduate program in **agricultural and biosystems engineering** is in sole possession of the nation's [No. 1 ranking](#).
2. **Paul Canfield**, who designs and discovers new materials and properties, has been elected to the [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#).
3. **Juan Bibiloni-Rivera** is one of only 62 students nationwide named a 2020 [Truman Scholar](#), the premier graduate fellowship for those pursuing careers in public service.
4. **Johnny DiBlasi** was selected for the [Fulbright](#) U.S. Scholar Program in Creative and Performing Arts – Visual Arts award to Austria.
5. **Madeline Farringer, Divyesh Kumar, and Behnia Rezazadeh Shirazi** are 2020 [Goldwater Scholars](#), the premier undergraduate scholarship in mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering.
6. Iowa State's first-ever [Boren Fellow](#) is **Steven Sleder**, who will combine his passions for cybersecurity, machine learning, and the Russian language during his study in Estonia.
7. The full-time MBA program in the **Ivy College of Business** is ranked in the [top 11%](#) in the country and [makes history](#) with gender balance in the program.
8. **Toni Sleugh** is one of just 55 students in the U.S. selected for the [Udall Scholarship](#), to recognize leadership, public service, and commitment to issues related to the environment or Native American nations.
9. **Tom Mansell** (chemical and biological engineering) and **Julie Zaikina** (chemistry) have been selected for prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER awards.
10. The **College of Veterinary Medicine** is ranked in [the top 10](#) in the U.S. and No. 24 in the world.
11. The **Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence**, led by director **Alicia Carriquiry**, has earned a [5-year renewal](#) by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to continue its work transferring scientific findings to investigators.
12. Four Cyclone Engineers: **Courtney Beringer, Jordyn Koenig, Nikita Kozak, and Brandon Vance** received the National Science Foundation's prestigious [Graduate Research Fellowship](#).
13. **Lee Anne Wilson** and **Steve Kawaler** are part of the first class of fellows of the [American Astronomical Society](#), recognizing original research, innovative contributions, and significant outreach.

14. A traveling art exhibition, [20 Artists, 20 Parks](#), features the work of faculty, graduate students, and extension specialists from the **Colleges of Design, Agriculture and Life Sciences**, and **Liberal Arts and Sciences**, commemorating the centennial of Iowa's state parks.
15. **Paul Plummer** was appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, joining **Locke Karriker**, who was appointed in 2019.
16. **Hridesh Rajan** leads the new, federally funded [Dependable Data-Driven Discovery Institute](#) to increase confidence in daily decisions rooted in data.
17. The new **Robert T. Hamilton Poultry Teaching and Research Farm** is up and running, after its [dedication](#) in early March.
18. The National Academy of Engineering named Iowa State [a top institution](#) for **diversifying engineering education**.

This list could be ten times longer. I am so very proud of all of you! Thanks to you, I know for certain the list will continue to grow as every day the Iowa State community learns, innovates, and creates. Thank you for making our university, our state, and our world a better place — and for taking a moment with me to celebrate.

Wendy Wintersteen  
President

*P.S., Campus is blooming with beauty! Enjoy the spring colors in the latest [Postcard from Campus](#) and see the [love growing](#) for Iowa State in the Agronomy Department's garden at the corner of Osborn Drive and Wallace Road.*