

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH PROFILE

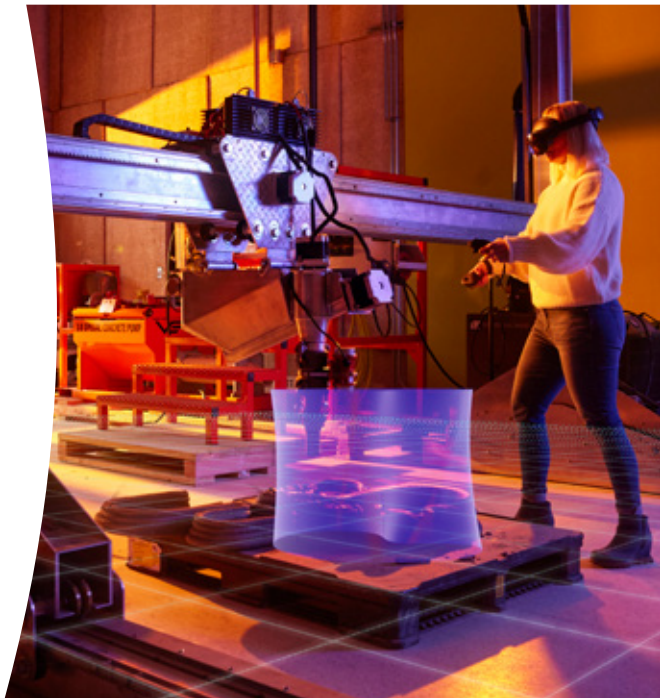
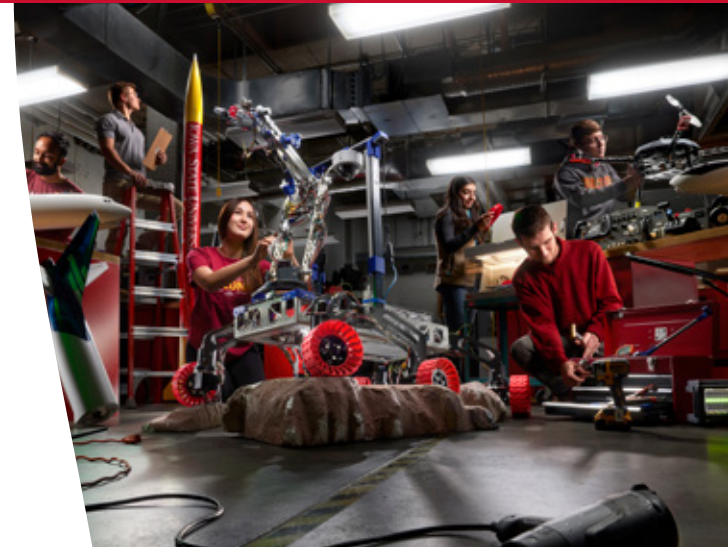
2025

Iowa State University aspires to be the most student-centric leading research university.

Iowa State's culture of innovation provides students with opportunities for hands-on, experiential learning through the Start Something Network, Student Innovation Center and high-impact activities such as faculty-student research projects, internships and learning communities. Faculty and staff are dedicated to preparing students for future careers and leadership opportunities.

Iowa State's 1,900-acre campus is one of the most beautiful in the country. The American Society of Landscape Architects recognized central campus as a national landmark for outstanding landscape architecture. ISU is located in the heart of **AMES >>** which is ranked among the Best Places to Live by Livability.com. With a population of more than 65,000, Ames is located in the center of Iowa, just 30 minutes north of Des Moines, the state capital and largest population and business center.

Iowa State's mission is to "Create, share and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place." In the first three years of the 2022-2031 **STRATEGIC PLAN >>** the university has invested more than \$16.5 million in innovative initiatives. From expanding high-demand degree programs and cutting-edge research to enhancing student well-being and supporting Iowa communities, these strategic investments advance Iowa State toward what it aspires to be.



STUDENT SUCCESS

The commitment to student success is reflected in the university's **GRADUATION AND RETENTION RATES >>**. More than 57% of students graduate in four years – that's 15% above the national average. More than 95 percent of Iowa State's grads are employed or continuing their education, within six months of graduation.

ISU's first-year retention rate is 87.5%. More than 44% of Iowa State students graduate debt-free and 72% of undergraduates receive private scholarships or grants.

In fall 2024, Iowa State welcomed 30,432 students. The student body represents every Iowa county, every U.S. state and 116 countries.

FIRST-RATE FACILITIES

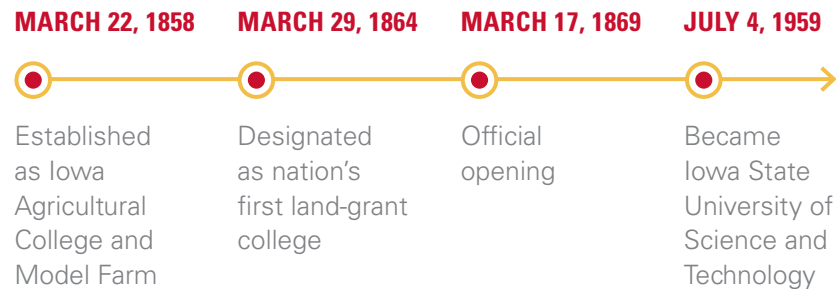
Research facilities, classrooms and student learning spaces are a priority at Iowa State. The \$84 million **STUDENT INNOVATION CENTER >>** is the crown jewel of interdisciplinary collaboration and exploration. The new Therkildsen Industrial Engineering Building opened in spring 2025, and work continues for the LeBaron Hall rebuild and McKay Hall renovation project. The final phase of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab will be completed in 2026. The lab is a **NATIONAL LEADER >>** in protecting animal and human health, conducting 1.6 million tests annually.

Iowa State maintains the largest residence hall department in Iowa. Annually, more than 10,000 students choose to live in one of 20 residence halls or three apartment complexes.



LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY

Iowa State is one of the nation's leading land-grant universities, and has an international reputation for preparing students to apply their knowledge to solve the world's problems and improve quality of life. The record shows that Iowa State graduates become early leaders in business, industry, education and service organizations worldwide.



NATIONAL PROMINENCE

Iowa State's #1 in Iowa and in the top 25% nationally on The Wall Street Journal's 2025 list of Best Colleges. Money.com also ranked Iowa State in the top 10% for affordability among U.S. public universities. Iowa State's **RETURN ON INVESTMENT >>** ranks among the highest in the nation.

Additionally, ISU consistently ranks in the top 100 universities worldwide for patents. Iowa State has **EIGHT COLLEGES >>** Agriculture and Life Sciences, Business, Design, Engineering, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate College.



RESEARCH

The research enterprise at Iowa State includes nearly 60 centers and institutes, world-class facilities and award-winning researchers and scholars. For fiscal year 2024, Iowa State set another **RECORD FOR RESEARCH FUNDING >>** attracting \$346.2 million and a total of \$544.6 million in external funding.

Iowa State is the only university in the nation to house on its campus a U.S. Department of Energy research laboratory. The **AMES NATIONAL LABORATORY >>**, established in 1947, conducts world-class materials science research. Iowa State collaborates with many research partners, including a long-standing relationship with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Iowa State excels in putting university research to work in the marketplace. The university has been described as a “powerhouse” in **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER >>**, with \$133 million in global sales of licensed technologies in FY2024.

The first electronic digital computer was invented at Iowa State in the late 1930s by Professor John V. Atanasoff and graduate student Clifford Berry, and is known as the Atanasoff-Berry Computer (ABC). The reconstructed version of the ABC is on display at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California.

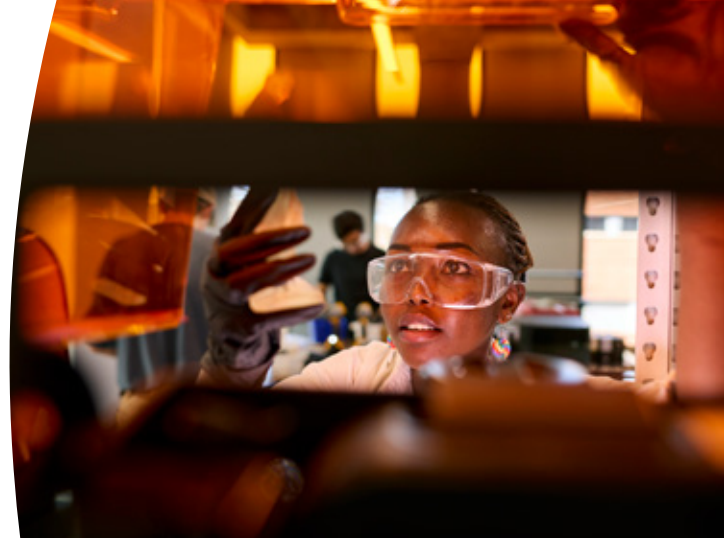


WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

Iowa State University offers innovative academic programs and hands-on research opportunities with globally recognized scholars to help students reach their full potential inside and outside the classroom. With more than 100 majors, ISU students can pursue their passion to make an impact on the world.

To ensure students receive an exceptional education, the university sponsors several initiatives to help students transition to campus life, engage in their education and earn their degree. Iowa State's **START SOMETHING NETWORK >>** offers support and resources for students who want to start a business, market a product or lead a group of innovative thinkers. Nearly 71% of Iowa State's undergraduate students participate in two or more high impact practices during their time at Iowa State.

The **DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS >>** also provides support and programs to ensure the success of the more than 1,700 faculty members. More than 30 Iowa State faculty have received prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER awards over the past five academic years. Additionally, there are nine current national academy members.



EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Learning occurs everywhere on campus and there are abundant opportunities for students to build community and life skills to prepare for the world beyond college. Students can participate in one of Iowa State's 80 learning communities to support their academic success and choose from more than 800 student organizations to explore new interests and build leadership skills.

Should a student meet an obstacle or need support to reach their personal and academic goals, Iowa State meets students where they are through a culture of care known as **CYCLONE SUPPORT >>**.

The initiative ensures that no matter which door a student enters, they are cared for and are connected to holistic well-being services and resources.

As the top student employer on campus, **THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS >>** creates pathways for interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. By fostering hand-on exploration, students are equipped with the skills and experiences they need to succeed in the workforce.



SUPPORTING THE MISSION

Iowa State has a budget of nearly \$1.7 billion for fiscal year 2026, including state and federal funds, tuition and fees, contracts and grants and auxiliary enterprises. The university is continuously working to make operational improvements, enhance productivity and generate savings to offset other costs and reinvest into strategic priorities.

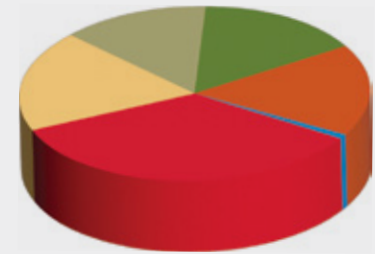
One of Iowa State's most transformative initiatives was the implementation of a new enterprise management system and shared services model for finance and human resources. The cloud-based software system has improved efficiency and enhanced security protection, backup and recovery features.







In addition to providing financial and capital planning and strategy, the **DIVISION OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCE >>** is responsible for campus facilities and maintenance, business services and the cultural arts.

Across campus, more than 4,800 staff members are supporting the university's mission of teaching, research and outreach.

OPERATING REVENUES | FY 2026

TOTAL
\$1,770,219,928



	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS \$15,876,738 (0.9%)
	TUITION AND FEES \$612,397,000 (34.6%)
	CONTRACTS AND GRANTS \$324,796,000 (18.4%)
	STATE APPROPRIATIONS \$241,056,190 (13.6%)
	AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES \$278,638,000 (15.7%)
	OTHER INCOME \$297,456,000 (16.8%)

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Iowa State delivers a \$5 billion impact to the state economy through cutting-edge research, economic development support for business and industry and ISU Extension and Outreach. The university's 550-acre Research Park has 145 tenants that employ 2,500 people. Many of the programs at the heart of Iowa State's **ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM >>** are based in the research park.

Innovation and entrepreneurship are deeply embedded in our culture and curriculum. Iowa State is a trusted partner for **INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS >>**, which is why more than 800 businesses partner with the university annually.

Iowa State's CyTown – the first multiuse district on a university campus – is set to open in the fall of 2027. The innovative development will support investment in the Iowa State Center and growth of the research park.

EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

With offices in all 99 Iowa counties, **ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH >>** annually provides research-based educational programs to more than one million residents, serving rural areas, small communities and urban areas.

More than 870 staff and faculty partner with county extension councils and volunteers to provide programs in agriculture and natural resources, community and economic development, human and health sciences, and 4-H youth development.



WELCOMING AND RESPECTFUL

Iowa State strives to be a university that cultivates a welcoming and respectful environment where all students, faculty and staff flourish.

Grounded in a culture where everyone has the opportunity to work hard and succeed, the university's **PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY >>** promote respect, empathy and appreciation for all Cyclones.

ATHLETICS

Iowa State is a founding member of the Big 12 Conference, and competes in NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision athletics sponsoring 11 women's and seven men's **INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAMS >>**.

Cyclone student-athletes continue to thrive in the classroom. ISU's institutional Graduation Success Rate score has improved each of the last 10 years, from 77% in 2014 to 95% the past three years.

Since the 2011-12 academic year, ISU is the nation's only school to average at least 50,000 fans at home football games (13-straight seasons), 12,000 fans at home men's basketball games (15-straight years), and 9,000 fans at home women's basketball games (17-straight seasons), excluding the COVID-impacted 2020-21 academic year.



ALUMNI

Alumni and friends are powerful advocates for the university, supporting Iowa State with their time, talents and financial contributions.

More than 290,000 Iowa State alumni live in 179 countries. Their success started with an **EDUCATION THAT DELIVERS >>** on student outcomes, affordability and future earnings.

ISU FOUNDATION

On June 30, 2021, Iowa State completed its largest-ever fundraising campaign, “Forever True, For Iowa State,” with 532,377 gifts from more than 96,000 donors totaling \$1.542 billion.

Through the campaign, administered by the **IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION >>**, donors gave \$500 million for student support and more than \$275 million for new research laboratories, classrooms and collaborations spaces.

Since the campaign ended, strong giving continues with more than \$179 million raised in FY24.

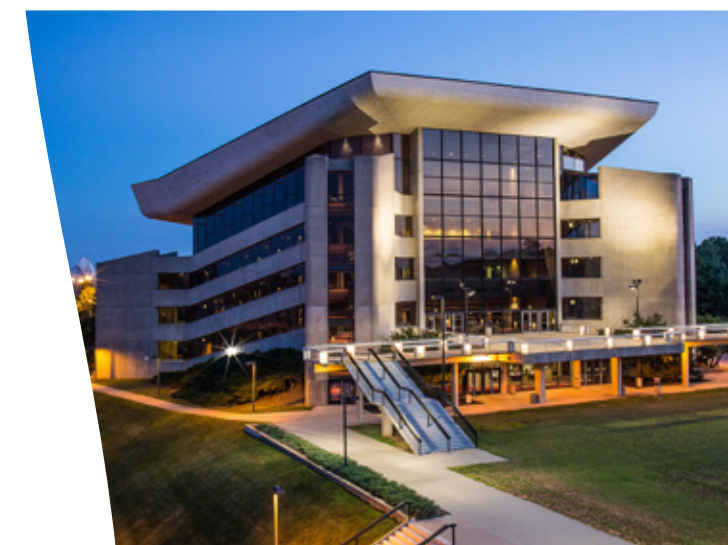


ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Iowa State's commitment to art literacy and visual culture is evident throughout the campus, which boasts one of the nation's **LARGEST CAMPUS PUBLIC ART COLLECTIONS >>**.

The **IOWA STATE CENTER >>**, is an educational, cultural and athletic complex that annually draws touring, Broadway shows, dance performances and concerts.

The 17-acre **REIMAN GARDENS >>** serves as the south entryway to Iowa State. This garden masterpiece, which includes a butterfly wing and nationally recognized rose collection, reflects Iowa State's long-standing commitment to horticulture education.



RESOURCES

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY >>

STRATEGIC PLAN (2022-2031), MISSION AND VISION >>

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT >>

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS >>

STUDENT AFFAIRS >>

OPERATIONS AND FINANCE >>

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART >>

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY >>

FOREVER TRUE, FOR IOWA STATE >>

CYTOWN >>

IOWA BOARD OF REGENTS >>

AMERICA'S CULTIVATION CORRIDOR >>

IOWA BUSINESS COUNCIL BUSINESS EDUCATION ALLIANCE >>

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES >>

BIG 12 CONFERENCE >>

INNOVATE AT IOWA STATE >>

IOWA STATE FACT BOOK >>

AT A GLANCE

FOUNDED

1858

AMES, IOWA
(POP. 65,000)

ACADEMICS

10

SCHOOLS /
COLLEGES

100

MAJORS

ENROLLMENT

30,432

(25,628 UNDERGRADS)

FACULTY

1,746

MEMBERS

STAFF

4,849

MEMBERS

ATHLETICS

BIG 12

CONFERENCE

EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

99

COUNTIES

ALUMNI

290,239

IN 179 COUNTRIES

PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

Ames, Iowa

SCIENCE WITH PRACTICE

The Iowa Board of Regents and the Iowa State University (ISU) Presidential Search Committee invite nominations and applications for the position of President of ISU. The Board has charged the search committee with the responsibility to identify candidates who are experienced leaders in higher education, of unquestionable integrity, and carry a vision for innovation and success within an informed university community.

Established in 1858, Iowa State University became a land-grant in 1862 when Iowa emerged as the first state to accept the terms of the Morrill Act. ISU is a Carnegie Classification Doctoral Research University: Highest Research Activity. The 30,500 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students pursue studies in over 100 majors in eight colleges—Agriculture and Life Sciences, Business, Design, Engineering, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, and the Graduate College. Students are guided by a stellar faculty, staff, and administrative team numbering 6,500. The student body represents every Iowa county, every state, and 116 countries. Student athletes, the Cyclones, compete in NCAA Division I athletics as a member of the Big 12 Conference. The Cyclones participate in 11 women's and seven men's intercollegiate teams.

The ISU campus in Ames comprises 1,900 acres. This significant presence is expanded through the university's extension and outreach service with offices in each of the state's 99 counties and enhanced with the presence of the Ames National Laboratory, established on the campus in 1947. Iowa State's budget of nearly \$1.7 billion for fiscal year 2026 includes state and federal funds, tuition and fees, contracts, grants, and auxiliary enterprises. ISU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and several degree-related accrediting bodies.

EXPECTATIONS

The new president must be a servant leader who is forward thinking and has the ability to navigate change. The successful candidate must have experience developing and executing a future-oriented strategic plan. This individual will be an exceptional communicator and nimble thought leader, who is able to embrace the culture of ISU. The new president must be able to make courageous decisions while leading in a shifting higher education environment. The candidate must be an advocate of the land-grant mission, upholding the hallmarks of teaching, research, service, and extension.

Additional expectations of the new president are below:

- A student-first focus on preparation, support, and success needs for all students in academics, research, and health and welfare;
- Ability to unify and build a campus-wide team with an approachable, servant-leader style that inspires trust, credibility, and confidence with stakeholders;
- Demonstrated success in fundraising engagement and knowledge of best practices;
- Skills in fiscal management oversight, revenue diversification, creative allocation, resource generation, and grants;
- Respect for faculty and staff contributions, free inquiry of knowledge, professional development, and shared governance; and
- Knowledge and understanding of the role of intercollegiate athletics, its current environment, and its substantial impact on the university.

ATTRIBUTES AND QUALITIES

The new president will have a strong track record of integrity and ethical leadership, and be committed to the culture and history of the university. It is necessary that the president be an enthusiastic, energetic, and engaging voice on behalf of the university, both internally and externally. Other attributes and qualities the new president should possess are below:

- High emotional intelligence with strong spoken, written, listening, and interpersonal skills with an open-door, open-mind style;
- Capacity to attract, supervise, and retain a talented leadership team and administrative staff;
- Ethical optimization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to facilitate learning, research, operations, and a framework to address trends for online learning growth;
- Effective interaction with diverse constituencies, including PK-12, alumni, professional organizations, business and industry, foundations, the city of Ames, and the state of Iowa;
- Partner within a statewide team, working with the Board of Regents and Iowa's public university presidents; and
- Exercise diplomacy and be able to navigate the political landscape effectively while maintaining a commitment to the university's mission.

APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Significant senior-level executive experience, preferably in higher education, and an earned doctorate (or terminal degree) are strongly preferred. To assure best consideration, applications should be received by September 19, 2025, and must include:

- A letter of interest addressing the expectations and characteristics described above;
- A current résumé or curriculum vitae; and
- A list of five professional references with each person's position, email address, and telephone number(s). References will not be contacted without prior authorization from the candidate.

Application materials should be submitted in PDF format through AGB's Iowa State University President Application Portal (<https://bit.ly/456tzrl>).

Applications will remain confidential through the semifinalist stage, to the fullest extent permitted by law. The new President will assume office by or before January 1, 2026.

Additional information about this search may be found on the Iowa State University website at <https://go.iastate.edu/president> and on the AGB Search website <https://www.agbsearch.com/searches/president-iowa-state-university>.

AGB SEARCH

Please direct any nominations, expressions of interest, or questions regarding the application process to the AGB Search consultants assisting the university with this search:

Roderick J. McDavis
Managing Principal & CEO
AGB Search, LLC
rod.mcdavis@agbsearch.com
(804) 514-1982

James H. McCormick
Senior Executive Search Consultant
AGB Search, LLC
jim.mccormick@agbsearch.com
(651) 238-5188

Janice S. Fitzgerald
Senior Executive Search Consultant
AGB Search, LLC
janice.fitzgerald@agbsearch.com
(717) 580-0663

EEO Statement

The Iowa Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, status as a U.S. Veteran, or any other classification protected by law.