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ANNUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER REPORT

Action Requested: Receive the report.

Full Reports Available: The FY 2026 annual reports from the University of Iowa (UI), Iowa State University (ISU) and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) are available on the Board of Regents website and will be provided to the General Assembly, Governor's Office, Legislative Services Agency and the Iowa Economic Development Authority as required by law.

Executive Summary: Iowa's three public universities collaborate with one another and with business and industry partners to foster success for economic development and entrepreneurship efforts throughout Iowa. Through research-based expertise and business assistance and partnerships, the universities provide valuable resources to Iowa's businesses, industries and communities in all 99 counties. Academic research generates intellectual property discoveries and innovations that create opportunities for commercialization, strengthen Iowa's economy and improve quality of life. These efforts provide Iowa with an educated workforce. Research and scholarship conducted by faculty and staff at the Regent universities often lead to the discovery of innovations that can improve the quality of life for people in the state, the nation and worldwide.

The Regent universities research and economic activities outlined in their reports meet the Board of Regents Strategic Plan, Priority 2, Objective 2.3: The Regent Enterprise will build strategic collaborations among universities and with outside entities to foster opportunities for innovation and economic development. Each institution shall report annually on significant partnership and/or collaboration activities. This includes both quantitative and qualitative metrics that demonstrate the impact of these activities.

FY 2026 Highlights: Collectively, in FY 2026, the three universities provided $1.3 billion in total sponsored research funding to the state of Iowa, including $551.5 million from competitive federal grants and awards. The Regent universities work diligently to develop breakthroughs that help to improve Iowa's economy through economic development, technology transfer and commercialization of research. The Regent universities faculty and researchers compete nationally and internationally to secure funding for their research. These efforts provide students with valuable opportunities to gain hands-on experience participating in this research.

The Regent universities aid hundreds of businesses and start-up companies across Iowa. In FY 2026, the Regent universities' research parks and incubators supported 218 companies employing 3,985 individuals. The universities also executed 169 license and option agreements involving institutional intellectual property and were awarded 119 patents. These numbers only tell part of the story. They do not fully capture the value of assisting licensees and startup companies in transforming early-stage research discoveries into commercially viable products and services. In addition, revenue from licensed patents is only collected during the patent term, which results in an underreporting of revenue generated from products that contain university technology. Despite these limitations, these statistics reflect excellent performance when compared to peer institutions and reflect the economic value the Regent universities provide to the State of Iowa.

The charts below show the combined statistics for the three universities over the past five fiscal years. See the chart at end of the docket item for the details from each university.

Licenses, Intellectual Property and Patents	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Patent applications filed	284	289	253	257	253
Patents awarded	150	158	150	156	119
Disclosures of intellectual property	197	215	201	209	246
Total license and option agreements executed on institutional intellectual property	84	136	56	111	113
License and option agreements executed on institutional intellectual property **in Iowa**	16	27	21	23	25
License and option agreements yielding income	208	201	215	189	169
Revenue to **Iowa** companies as a result of licensed technology	$12.1 M	$11.5 M	$13.2 M	$32.2 M	$23.7 M
Royalties and license fee income	$6.5 M	$5.3 M	$5.3 M	$6.1 M	$4.7 M

Companies	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total startup companies formed through licensing activities	5	7	8	4	6
Startup companies formed **in Iowa** through licensing activities	3	6	8	4	4
Startup companies formed through UNI assistance	98	75	107	77	72
Companies in research parks and incubators	274	287	272	235	218
New companies in research parks and incubators	95	102	85	60	77
Employees in companies in research parks and incubators	3,231	3,828	3,956	3,490	3,985

Income and Funding	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total sponsored funding	$1,515 B	$1.277 B	$1.390 B	$1.291 B	$1.307 B
Sponsored funding from federal grants	$617 M	$687.8 M	$632 M	$626.9 M	$551.5 M
Total corporate-sponsored funding	$199.9 M	$203.0 M	$229.3 M	$175.9 M	$244.9 M
Corporate-sponsored funding **in Iowa**	$27.6 M	$32.6 M	$30.9 M	$24.5 M	$33.2 M

State Appropriations: Stable state funding allows the Regent universities to grow Iowa's economy. In many cases sponsored projects, including federally sourced projects, require matching funds ensuring the sponsor and the university have a financial stake in the project. By using a portion of state appropriations to meet these requirements, the Regent universities can leverage additional external funding, effectively doubling or, in some cases, more than doubling

the impact of state dollars. This ability to maximize state investments expands the universities' capacity to advance research, support innovation and contribute to Iowa's economic growth.

Additionally, federal agencies will only invest in institutions that demonstrate financial stability, compliance with federal regulations, access to advanced technology and instrumentation, robust public service portfolios, and highly qualified scholars and researchers. State funding supplies these resources, allowing the Regent universities to attract federal and non-federal funds so that every state dollar invested in the Regent universities multiplies the impact on Iowa's communities and economy.

For FY 2026, the Iowa General Assembly appropriated nearly $13.5 million in total funding for economic development, technology transfer and research commercialization, maintaining the same funding level as FY 2025. Of this amount nearly $4.4 million was appropriated through two state general fund appropriations, allocated as follows:

- Nearly $4.0 million to ISU and UI for the biosciences innovation program (divided $2,963,995 to ISU and $1,000,000 to UI), which is the same as FY 2025. The funding continues to support the four bioscience platforms identified in the TEConomy report: biobased chemicals, precision and digital agriculture, vaccines and immunotherapeutics, and medical devices. These investments promote innovation and economic development by facilitating technology transfer and commercialization, supporting start-ups companies, attracting external funding and strengthening the innovation ecosystem, and developing a skilled workforce.
- $394,321 to UNI for the Metal Casting Center's foundry 4.0 initiatives related to investment castings technology, automation, IoT sensors and industry support, which is the same level of support as FY 2025. This program was initially funded at $400,000 in FY 2020.

The remaining $9.1 million is allocated to the Regent universities from the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund (SWJCF):

- $3 million to the Regents Innovation Fund, which supports technology commercialization, marketing, entrepreneurship, business growth and infrastructure projects and programs authorized under Iowa Code chapter 262B (Commercialization of Research). The Regent universities invest the funds that yield successful startups, innovative business assistance, and critical research leading to commercialization. The universities are required to match the funding on a one-to-one basis from non-state resources. Research grants, private investors or companies interested in a project, and other university funds are often used as match dollars. The legislation divides the funding as follows: 35% to UI, 35% to ISU, and 30% to UNI.
- $2 million to UI for implementing the entrepreneurship and economic growth initiative. The appropriation is used to expand public/private partnerships and programing through the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center.
- $209,279 to UI for the UI Research Park, Technology Innovation Center and UI Pharmaceuticals (formerly Advanced Drug Development program). UI must invest in research projects that provide economic stimulus for Iowa and emphasize providing services to Iowa-based companies.
- $2.42 million to ISU for small business development centers, the ISU Research Park and the Center for Industrial Research and Service. At least $735,728 must be allocated for small business development centers. Funding for research must prioritize projects that stimulate Iowa's economy and provide services to Iowa-based companies. The CIRAS

industrial incentive program must focus on Iowa's industrial sectors and seek financial and in-kind contributions from businesses, industrial foundations and trade associations. Program funds may only be used for directed contract research or nondirected research projects that receive matching private-sector contributions. Small businesses must provide $1 for every $3 in state funding, while other businesses, industrial foundations and trade associations must provide a dollar-for-dollar match.

- $1.47 million to UNI for the Metal Casting Center, Family Business Center, the Center for Business Growth and Innovation, and the Institute for Decision Making. UNI must direct expenditures for research toward projects that will provide economic stimulus for Iowa and emphasize providing services to Iowa-based companies.

Annual Report Highlights

In FY 2026, the University of Iowa secured $771.7 million in external funding, including $536 million for research, scholarship and creative activities across more than 2,100 projects. The federal government remained the university's largest source of research support during FY 2026, providing $295.8 million for projects spanning medicine, public health, engineering, education, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities. These investments demonstrate confidence in the expertise and capabilities of UI researchers, but they do more than support scholarly efforts — they make possible discoveries that improve health and strengthen communities in Iowa and beyond.

In FY 2026, Iowa State University raised a total of $487.9 million in total external funding, including $254.6 million in sponsored research funding dedicated to studies of agricultural technology, women's health, semiconductors and many other projects. Iowa State researchers submitted 1,999 new research proposals during the 2026 fiscal year, the highest number in the past six fiscal years. Research funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grew year over year, to $30.6 million and $17.9 million, respectively, increases of 24.7% and 1.8%. Research support from corporate and industry sources also increased, jumping by $10.6 million to $32.8 million.

The University of Northern Iowa provided economic development assistance to all of Iowa's 99 counties for the 27th consecutive year. These efforts, led by UNI's economic development outreach programs, are housed in the Business and Community Services (BCS) division, and work toward supporting UNI strategic goal 3, to "Empower Communities to Shape Their Future." Since 2000, BCS has engaged the entire university community in its outreach efforts, including faculty, staff, students and alumni – all of whom play a critical role in Building a Better Iowa. BCS outreach centers and programs recorded 4,848 unique client interactions, a record high.

	FY 2022				FY 2023				FY 2024				FY 2025				FY 2026			
Indicators	**ISU**	**SUI**	**UNI**	**Regents Total**	**ISU**	**SUI**	**UNI**	**Regents Total**	**ISU**	**SUI**	**UNI**	**Regents Total**	**ISU**	**SUI**	**UNI**	**Regents Total**	**ISU**	**SUI**	**UNI**	**Regents Total**
Number of disclosures of intellectual property	82	103	12	197	130	72	13	215	101	87	13	201	101	95	13	209	112	117	17	246
Number of patent applications filed	94	188	2	284	112	175	2	289	129	121	3	253	131	124	2	257	120	133	0	253
Number of patents awarded	69	80	1	150	97	59	2	158	64 US only; 79 total	69	2	150	48-US only; 58 total	97	1	156	53-US only; 69 total	49	1	119
Number of license and option agreements executed on institutional intellectual property **in total**	34	48	2	84	87	47	2	136	25	29	2	56	57	53	1	111	88	25	0	113
Number of license and option agreements executed on institutional intellectual property **in Iowa**	10	5	1	16	14	12	1	27	13	7	1	21	18	14	1	23	20	5	0	25
Number of license and option agreements yielding income	113	83	12	208	113	76	12	201	111	92	12	215	108	71	10	189	98	62	9	169
Revenue to Iowa companies as a result of licensed technology	$5.5 million	2.32 million	$4.3 million	12.1 million	$3.0 million	$4.0 million	$4.5 million	$11.5 million	$3.6 million	$4.4 million	$5.2 million	$13.2 million	$15.3 million	$12.4 million	$4.5 million	$32.2 million	$11.1 million	$9.1 million	$3.5 million	$23.7 million
Number of startup companies formed, **in total** (through licensing activities)	1	3	1	5	1	5	1	7	5	2	1	8	1	2	1	4	3	1	2	6
Number of startup companies formed, **in Iowa** (through licensing activities)	1	1	1	3	1	4	1	6	5	2	1	8	1	2	1	4	2	1	1	4
Number of startup companies formed through UNI assistance	--	--	98	98	--	--	75	75	--	--	107	107	--	--	77	77	-	-	72	72
Number of companies in research parks and incubators	142	112	20	274	159	105	23	287	146	108	18	272	132	91	12	235	122	84	12	218
Number of new companies in research parks and incubators	45	42	8	95	48	42	12	102	24	54	7	85	15	37	8	60	30	40	7	77
Number of employees in companies in research parks and incubators	1,945	1,253	33	3,231	2,491	1,300	37	3,828	2,651	1,283	22	3,956	2,483	1,027	25	3,490	3,014	952	19	3,985
Royalties and license fee income	$2.8 million	$3.65 million	$35,600	$6.5 million	$3.1 million	$2.16 million	$49,068	$5.3 million	$3.0 million	$2.3 million	$68,810	$5.3 million	$4.5 million	$1.6 million	$33,200	$6.1 million	$3.3 million	$1.4 million	$32,484	$4.7 million
Total sponsored funding	$601.7 million	$867.2 million	$46.5 million	$1.515 billion	$530.5 million	$704.1 million	$42.7 million	$1.277 billion	$544.6 million	$811.0 million	$35.1 million	$1.390 billion	$549.3 million	$705.5 million	$36.3 million	$1.291 billion	$487.9 million	$771.7 million	$47.2 million	$1.307 billion
Sponsored funding from federal grants	$251.7 million	$343.1 million	$22.2 million	$617 million	$261.3 million	$366.3 million	$20.2 million	$647.8 million	$298.7 million	$314.3 million	$19 million	$632 million	$303.0 million	$300.2 million	$23.7 million	$626.9 million	$229.1 million	$295.8 million	$26.6 million	$551.5 million
Corporate-sponsored funding **in total**	$62 million	$136.6 million	$1.27 million	$199.9 million	$67.6 million	$134.2 million	$1.22 million	$203.0 million	$70.5 million	$157.7 million	$1.12 million	$229.3 million	$55.3 million	$119.6 million	$1.03 million	$175.9 million	$73.5 million	$169.5 million	$1.9 million	$244.9 million
Corporate-sponsored funding **in Iowa**	$18.8 million	$8 million	$800,000	$27.6 million	$22.8 million	$8.8 million	$950,000	$32.6 million	$19.4 million	$10.7 million	$825,000	$30.9 million	$15.1 million	$8.57 million	$781,000	$24.5 million	$18.2 million	$13.6 million	$1.4 million	$33.2 million