Student Success:
Transformative educational experience

The University of Iowa has identified the following indicators as key to monitoring our effectiveness in delivering high-quality education and providing clear pathways for students to achieve their educational and career goals.

Current Status
Over the past decade, the university has significantly improved our four-year graduation rate, keeping pace with the median rate of AAU public universities. We see this improvement as evidence that we have become more efficient in delivery of instruction. As the university embarks upon efforts to increase financial resources, we must also commit to continued improvement in efficiency. The increased value the university provides by lowering “time to degree” is paramount for attracting students who can succeed in a rigorous academic environment.

Selected Accomplishments
• 1-year retention and 4- and 6-year graduation rates remain at or close to record levels.
• U.S. News and World Report ranks SUI 38th among the nation’s best public universities, and ranks 28 SUI graduate programs and colleges among the 25 best in the country among all public and private schools, with 13 programs among the top 10 in the nation (up from 24 in the top 25 and 11 in the top 10 last year).
• SUI was named one of the top producers of Fulbright Students for the third year in a row.
• In 2017-18, 62% of respondents to the Senior Exit Survey reported participating in two or more high-impact practices and nearly two-thirds reported participating in an internship or field experience.
• In the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), all departments now have professional advisors, allowing individualized advising for students throughout their academic careers. This policy should increase retention and graduation rates for undergraduates.

Research and Discovery:
High-impact research

The University of Iowa is proud to be a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an association of 62 distinguished public and private research universities in the United States and Canada. Below are selected measures of progress that parallel indicators the AAU uses to assess its current and potential new members.

Current Status
The University of Iowa has maintained its overall research funding at a time when federal funding is stagnant. As a percentage of GDP, federal support for basic research is near a 40-year low. We continue to pursue alternative funding sources via corporate and foundation partnerships. Recent declines in expenditures and grant applications are linked to federal funding availability and the decline in the number of tenure track faculty over the past decade. This faculty group is a primary driver of research proposals and external funding. A central goal for the university is to increase the number of tenured faculty, which should improve outcomes in both these categories.

Selected Accomplishments
• The University of Iowa had a strong year for projects that will benefit Iowans, the country, and world thanks to an increase in federal funding for research and the number of proposals, grants, and contracts awarded in fiscal year 2018. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) granted UI medical and healthcare researchers 29 percent—or $40 million—more in FY 18 than in FY 17. NIH support in FY 18 was the highest since 2012.
• To spur greater collaboration among bioscience researchers at the University of Iowa and Iowa State University, the universities have awarded seed grants of $100,000 to help investigators build teams, collect data, grow projects and win grants in the areas of antimicrobial research, vaccines and immunotherapy, brain science, and medical devices.
• A record number of graduate students received nationally competitive fellowships for academic year 2018-19: six National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships, one American Association of University Women (AAUW), two American Heart Association, and one Ford.
Engagement: Broaden education, improve health, enhance economic development

The University of Iowa, particularly in its role as a state university, thrives on its commitment to public partnership and seeks to expand our public engagement to contribute to economic and cultural vitality and to the health and quality of life of the people of Iowa. Below are selected indicators that highlight just a few of the ways the university engages with its larger community.

**Selected Accomplishments**

- The Office of Outreach & Engagement promotes engagement activities in the colleges, and through its featured programs last year reached 42 counties in Iowa and involved more than 4,000 students in community engaged learning and theme semester courses.
- University of Iowa students and faculty contributed over 50,000 hours of work in community engaged learning courses to communities across Iowa.
- UI Hospitals and Clinics improved in the US News and World Report Hospital rankings in 2018, with 7 nationally ranked specialties (up from 5 in 2017) and higher rankings for 5 of those 7 specialties. Cancer experienced the largest gains, improving 22 spots from 2015.
- The Carver College of Medicine offers the highest rankings in 2018, with 7 nationally ranked specialties (up from 5 in 2017) and higher rankings for 5 of those 7 specialties. Cancer experienced the largest gains, improving 22 spots from 2015.

**Cultural Values: Diversity, Innovation, Collaboration**

In setting priorities and carrying out every aspect of its mission, the University of Iowa is guided by the values that have shaped us as an institution and as a community over time. These include our foundational commitments to diversity, innovation, and collaboration. Below are indicators related to our efforts to uphold those values.

**Current Status**

The cultural values that define and distinguish the University of Iowa include our foundational commitments to diversity, innovation, and collaboration. Because we know that domestic and global diversity are essential to achieving excellence across all aspects of our mission, the university is proud of the growing diversity of its faculty, staff, and student bodies over the past decade—though our diversity relative to our peers remains essentially unchanged. Recognizing that innovation is the path to a sustainable future, the university is increasing efforts to encourage faculty, staff, and student participation in disclosure, patent licensing, and startup processes. And the university has a long and successful tradition of interdisciplinary collaboration, which we are building on in many ways.

**Selected Accomplishments**

- The First Generation Task Force, a collaboration of over 30 faculty, staff, and student leaders, partnered with UI Student Government to host the first annual “I’m the First” first generation student summit. The Task Force created resources to help faculty and staff learn more about supporting first generation students.
- The Black Student Success Initiative (BSSI) provides opportunities for Black students to connect and receive mentoring and career readiness support. BSSI creates early intervention plans and provides faculty and staff opportunities to learn more about supporting Black students. Retention and graduation rates for Black students have increased since 2015.
- The Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development established a Research Development Lab, and other opportunities for faculty and staff across campus and disciplines to collaborate on solving some of society’s most vexing problems.
Student Success
Our goal is to provide a transformative educational experience that educates all UI students to be engaged citizens.

- The Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing recently received an additional gift of $2 million dollars from the Magid family. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) will continue to offer opportunities to all students from any undergraduate major. Enrollment in the Certificate in Writing, first offered by the Magid Center in 2011, has more than doubled in the past five years and enabled 258 undergraduate students to earn the Certificate.

- In 2018, Iowa became one of only two schools to produce co-national champion teams in debate’s 71-year history. Iowa joined Harvard and Emory as the only schools to have won the National Debate Tournament, Cross Examination Debate Association National Championship, and the Copeland Award.

- The May 2018 Engineering Graduating Class included eight graduates who completed the NAE Engineering Grand Challenge Scholars program, which was the 4th most of any university world-wide.

- College of Law students continue to achieve bar passage and employment rates above the national average. The Class of 2017 was 92.7% employed 10 months after graduation; nationally, they were 33rd for full-time jobs and 22nd for federal clerkships. In 2018, the ABA released comprehensive bar passage rates for the first time and the College of Law was 10th in the nation with a rate of 98.50%.

- The freshman class of BSN students was increased by 11% to expand the workforce of nurses in Iowa. The first-time success rate on the licensing exam for nurses graduating from the University of Iowa was 98%.

- The College of Public Health Iowa Institute of Public Health Research and Policy (IIPHRP), through the generosity of John Deere, Inc. and Dale and Linda Baker, implemented a Student Case Challenge Competition focused on the Puerto Rico Power Crisis. Students from 5 colleges and 14 departments participated in this multi-disciplinary event designed for graduate students to utilize their knowledge and practice team building, leadership, and communication skills.

- The university has secured four National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NSF REUs) that tie research to the university’s undergraduate education mission, on topics ranging from nanoscience and nanotechnology and microbiology to evolutionary science and watershed quality.

Research and Discovery
Our goal is to perform high-impact research.

- CLAS established a Grant Support Office (GSO) and hired a director as well as two research support managers in 2018. The GSO coordinates research development activities, pre-award proposal support, and post-award grant management support for researchers throughout the college.

- CLAS, the Graduate College, and International Programs collaborated to offer a Grant Writing Seminar for PhD students in the humanities and social sciences in summer 2018. Two members of the CLAS graduate faculty in the humanities and social sciences who are active in coaching external grant applications of graduate students jointly led the two-week seminar.

- The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office worked with the College of Law’s Innovation, Business, and Law Center to convene panels of experts to share insights on China and Intellectual Property issues.

- The College of Engineering completed the first year of the innovative Food-Energy-Water Sustainability graduate program, which is supported by a $3M NSF training grant. This program is designed to re-envision how STEM graduate students are educated and trained, thereby promoting a new paradigm in which educational and research activities are tailored to the students’ desired career paths.

- The College of Nursing received a $1.9 million, 5-year P20 Exploratory Center of Excellence grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) to establish the University of Iowa Center for Advancing Multimorbidity Science (CAMS). This Center will support research that profiles patient risk and symptom expression in order to develop customized therapies for adults with multiple chronic conditions.

- Researchers in the College of Public Health, Carver College of Medicine, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) were awarded $706,958 in FY18 funding from the NIH to explore a new intervention strategy to prevent obesity in high-risk children.
Engagement
Our goal is to engage with Iowa and the world to broaden education, improve health, and enhance economic development.

- The Center for Student Involvement & Leadership’s Alternative Spring Break program promotes service learning, social justice, and community building. Participation in the program has grown dramatically since it began in 2013. In spring 2018, 240 participants traveled to 16 locations across the United States. Each team completed a semester-long course that anchored their service in an issue pertinent to the city they visited.

- Professor Tom Gruca (marketing) is studying how to augment the physician workforce to bring primary care to rural Iowans, especially those in Health Profession Shortage Areas, by using visiting consultant clinics to increase access to specialists, as well as utilizing mid-level providers such as physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.

- Kate Gfeller (music) engaged deaf and hard of hearing stakeholders in the development of a web-based resource for complex listening. Working with a multidisciplinary team of faculty and students from the School of Music and Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders as well as UIHC researchers and residents from the Department of Otolaryngology, she set up online forums with a goal to provide content via a web-based resource, which will be free and available worldwide.

- Jeremy Swanston (art and art history) generated a collaborative graphic design partnership between the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the community of Perry, IA. This project focused on utilizing graphic design resources and methods to engage the community of Perry to identify areas for improvement and problem solve around specific economic and health challenges that are important to the community.

- Students in Tippie College of Business accounting courses offer Volunteer Income Tax Assistance to underserved populations in Johnson County. Over the last five years they provided more than 14,500 hours of volunteer service, filed over 6,300 returns, and generated $7.9 million in refunds.

- Eighty percent of Iowa’s dentists are UI College of Dentistry alumni, who deliver an estimated $800M in dental care to Iowans annually.

- For FY18, more than 13,000 students and 160 educators across Southeast Iowa participated in STEM programs through the Southeast Iowa STEM Hub at UI.

- The UI Libraries’ Hardin Library for the Health Sciences’ Greater Midwest Regional Library of National Library of Medicine received a $2.5 million supplemental grant to develop a network of public libraries across the country to provide health literacy services and information through All of Us, the NIH’s precision medicine research program.

- The American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists at the UI College of Pharmacy coordinated another successful year at the State Fair, this year partnering with the Iowa Poison Control Center to discuss Drug Safety programs for Iowans.

Cultural Values
Diversity, Innovation, Collaboration

- To start building a comprehensive understanding of the campus climate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Charter Diversity Committee and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education partnered to survey faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduates. Analysis is underway and results will be reported in 2018-19.

- The College of Education planned and hosted the first regional Latinx Issues in Education conference on October 21, 2017, and are planning a second in October 2018.

- University Housing and Dining collaborated with student, and the Trans-Inclusivity Task Force to launch the All In Living-Learning Community to provide an LGBTQ+-friendly housing option for UI students. The community welcomes and is open to all who seek to strengthen the LGBTQ+ community.

- International Student and Scholar Services is offering a new feature for incoming international students—a series of pre-arrival webinars to help students better prepare for their studies in the U.S. Over 200 students have taken part in the webinars over the past year. Topics include getting started, arranging travel, an overview of orientation, what to expect for various placement tests, living on or off campus, financial matters, how to become involved on campus, working in the U.S., academic expectation and resources, and professionalization and support for graduate students.

- The Office of Teaching, Learning & Technology partnered with the University Bookstore and the UI Libraries on ICON Direct/Affordable Content to save students significant money on their course content. Current savings is approximately $750,000 through three small pilots and the fall 2018 semester.