

Research Annual Report

Awards, expenditures and research activity.

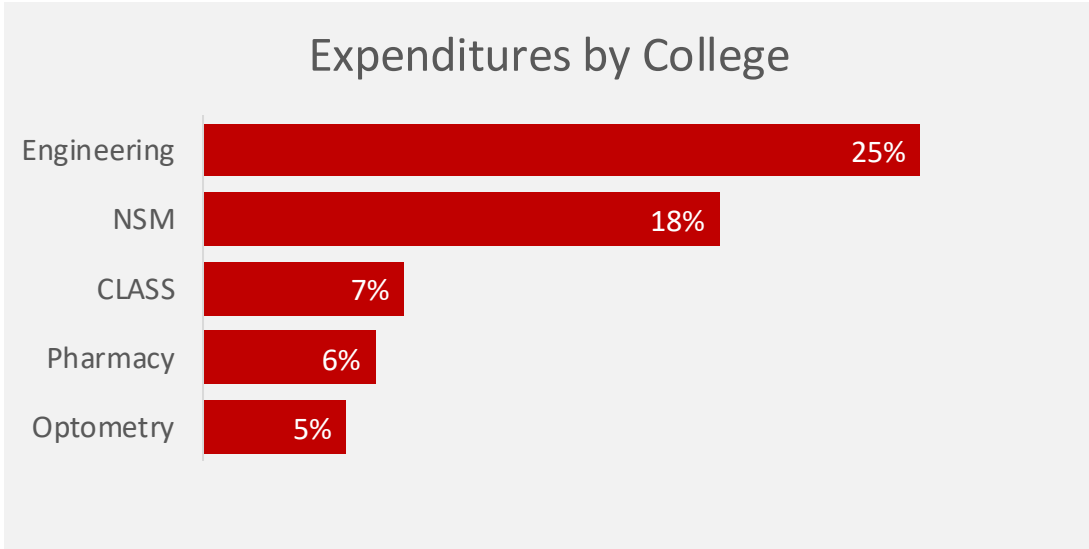
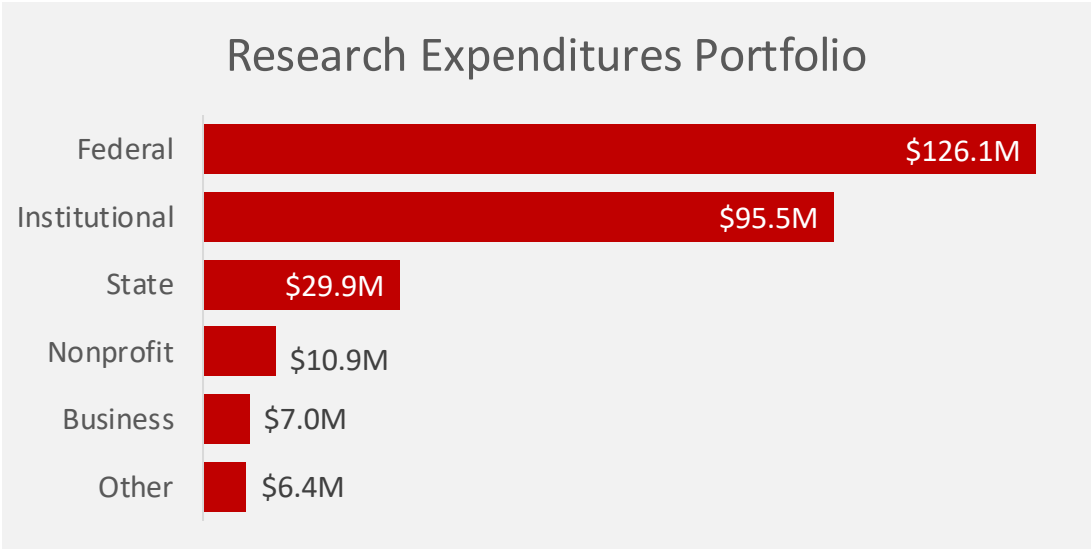
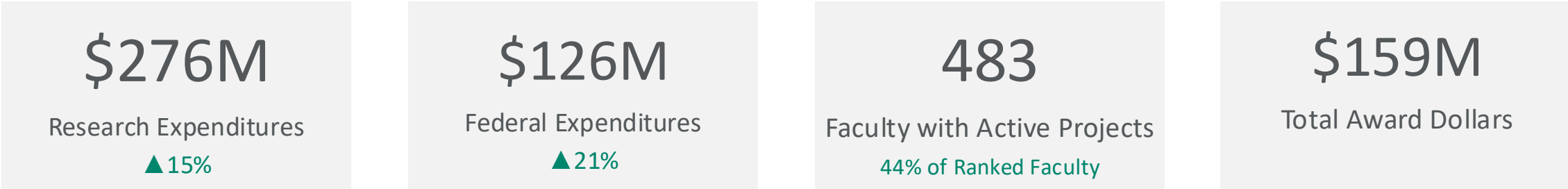
Fiscal Year 2025 · Published August 2026

In this Report

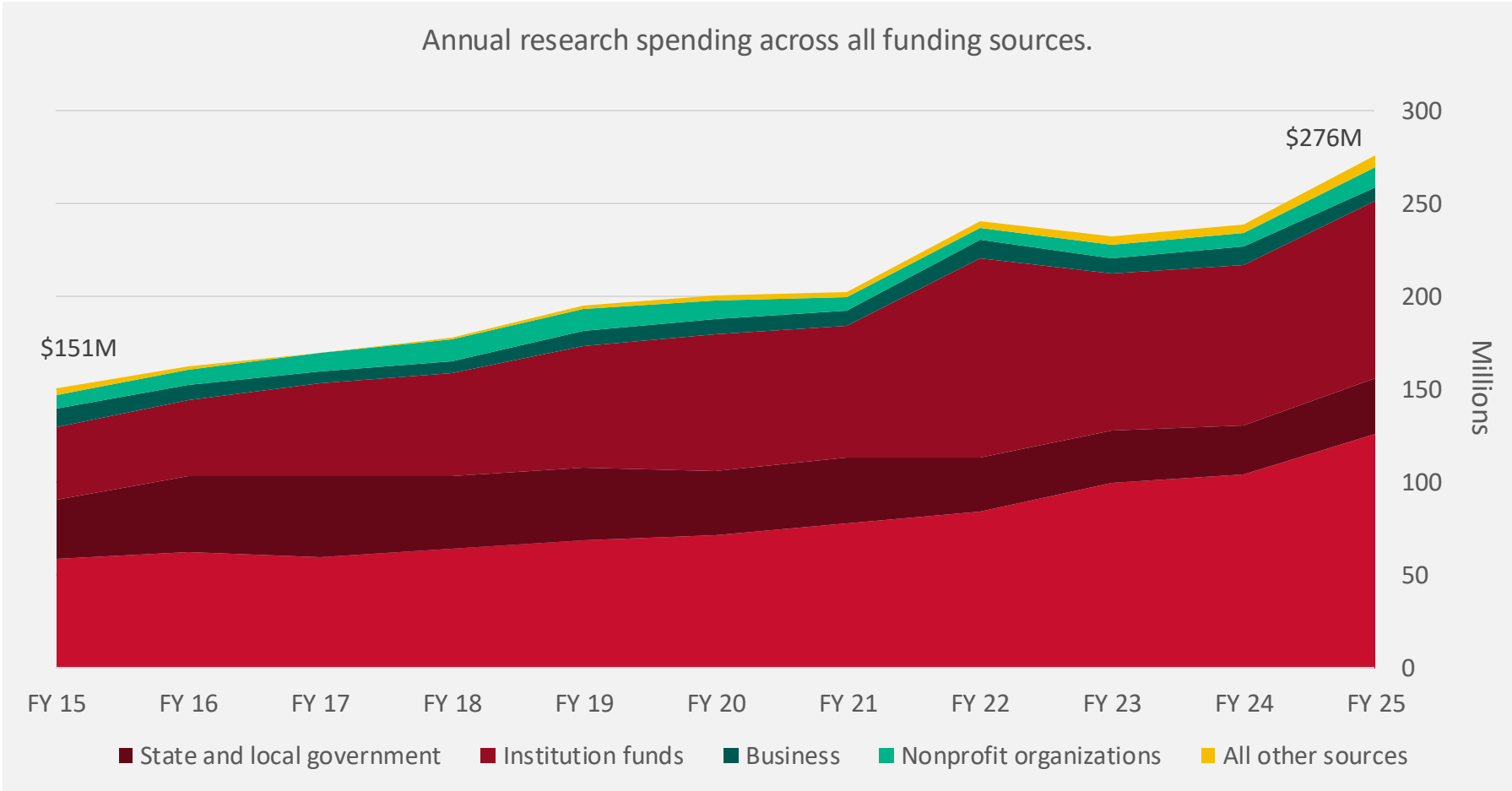
This report presents data reported to the National Science Foundation for the fiscal year 2025 Higher Education Research and Development Survey (NSF HERD). The HERD Survey is an annual data collection initiative conducted by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the NSF. It serves as the primary source of information on separately accounted-for research and development (R&D) expenditures at higher education institutions in the United States and its outlying areas, covering over 900 universities and colleges each year.

Faculty data is based on the Fall Semester 2024 headcount pulled from the UH [By The Numbers](#) data dashboard provided by the Office of the Provost.

FY25 Research Snapshot



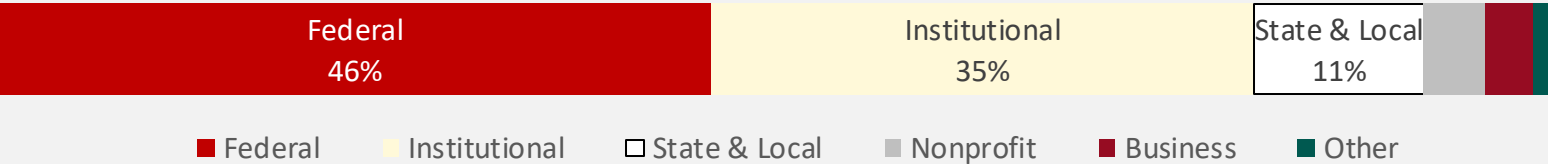
A Decade of Growth



▲ 6.24% 10-year compound annual growth rate

Who Funds Our Research?

Research Expenditure Concentration by Source



▲ 21%

Federal Funding Growth
from FY24

▲ 50%

DOD Expenditures from
FY24

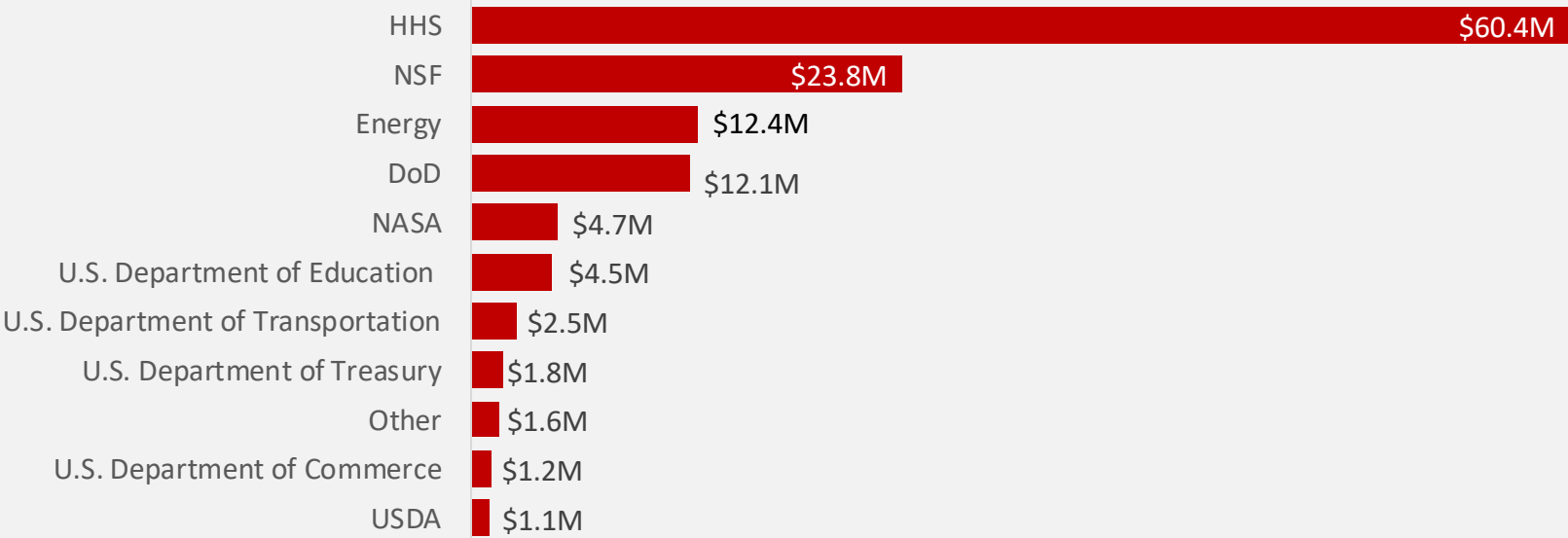
48%

HHS Share of Federal
Funding

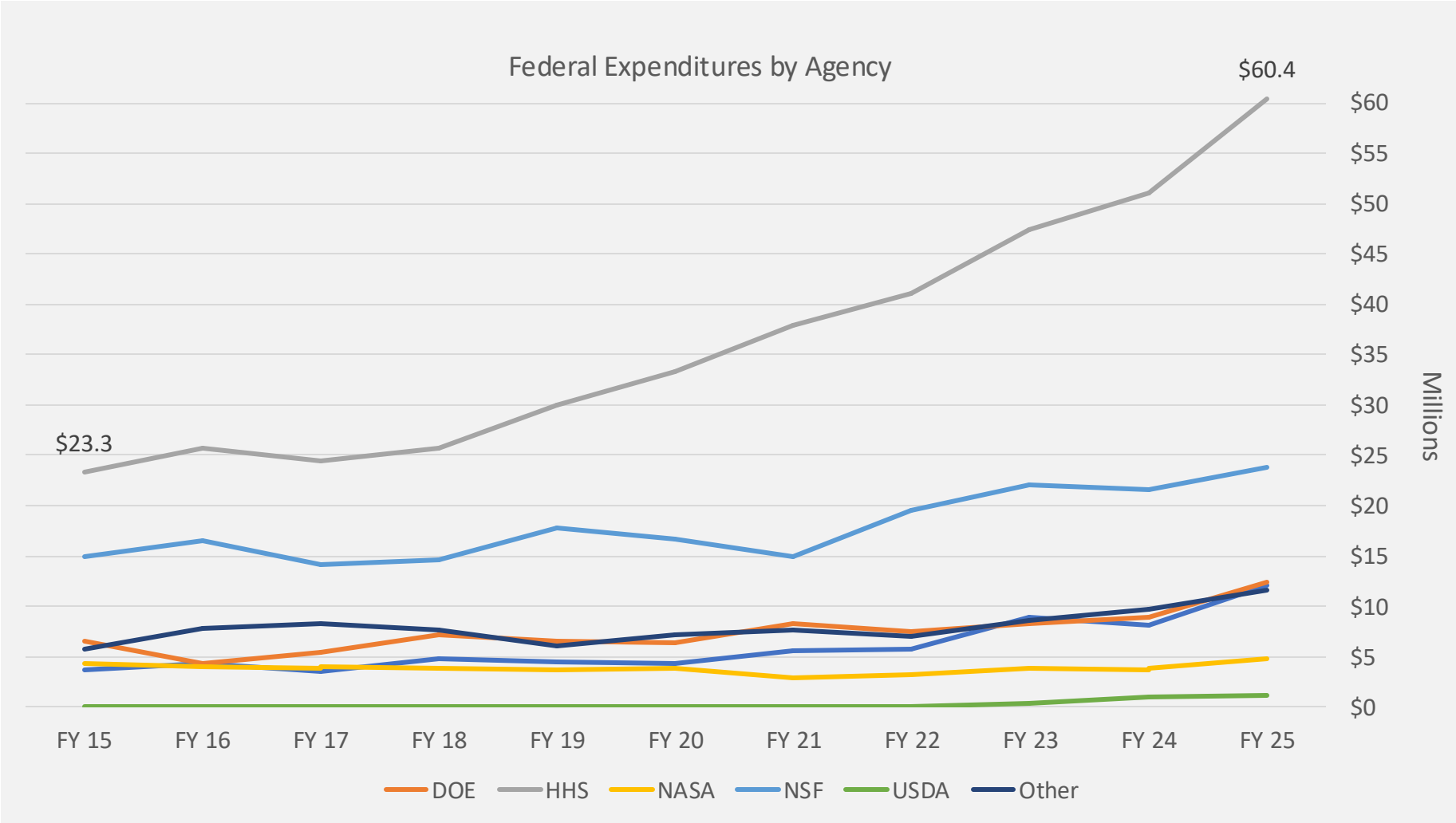
54%

Funding from Non-Federal
Sources

Federal Research Expenditures by Sponsor



Federal Research Expenditures



FY25 Awards at a Glance

\$159M

Total Award Dollars

\$494K

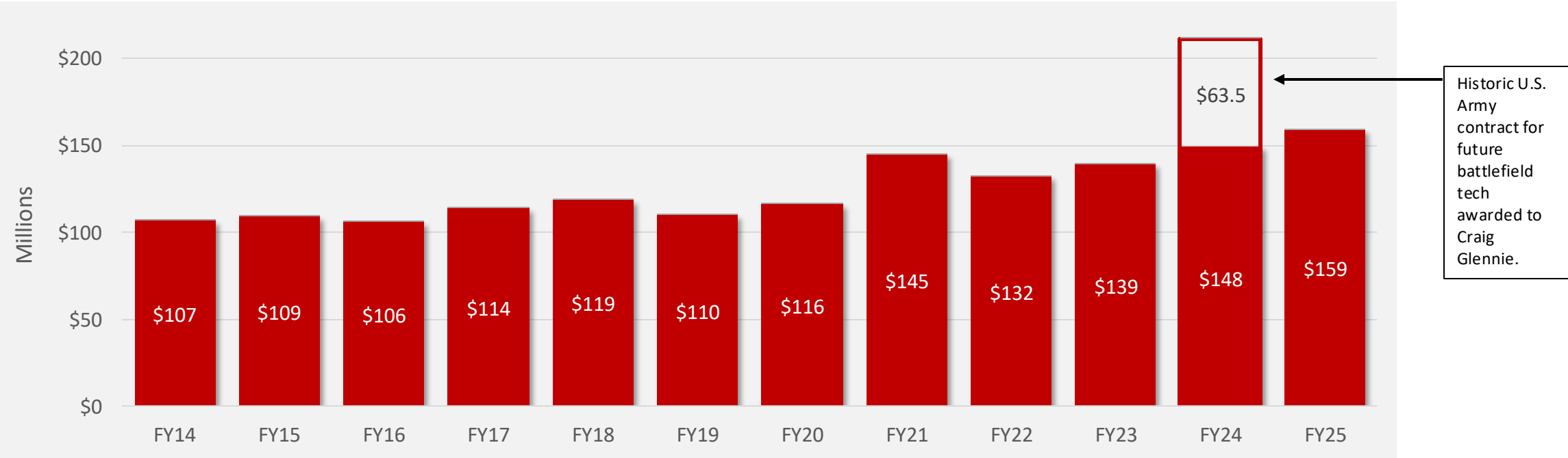
Average Award Size

322

Total Number of Awards

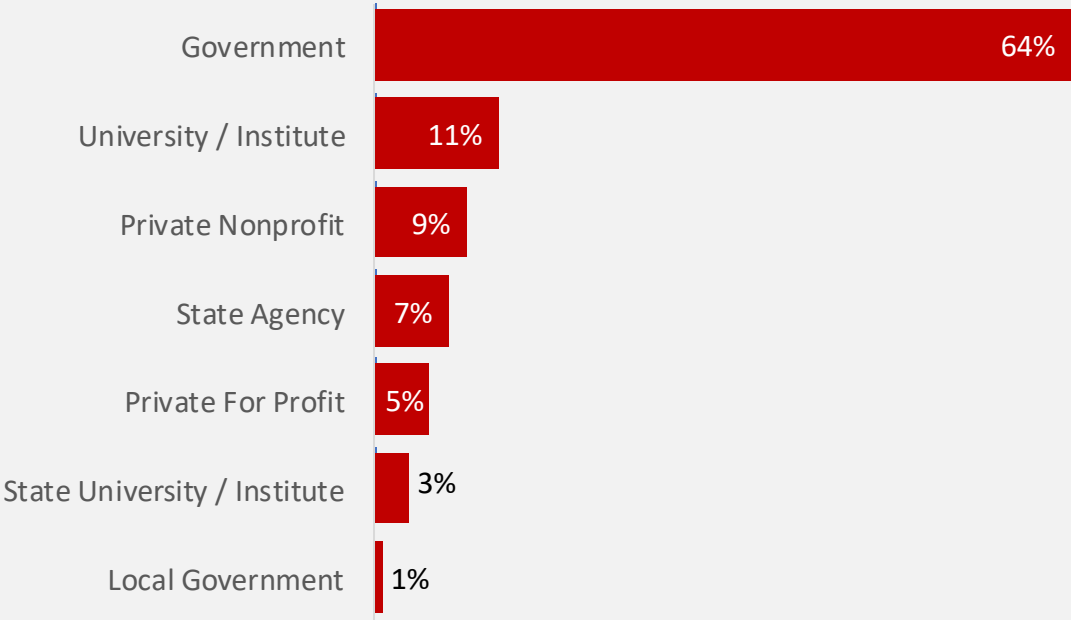
30

Awards Over \$1M

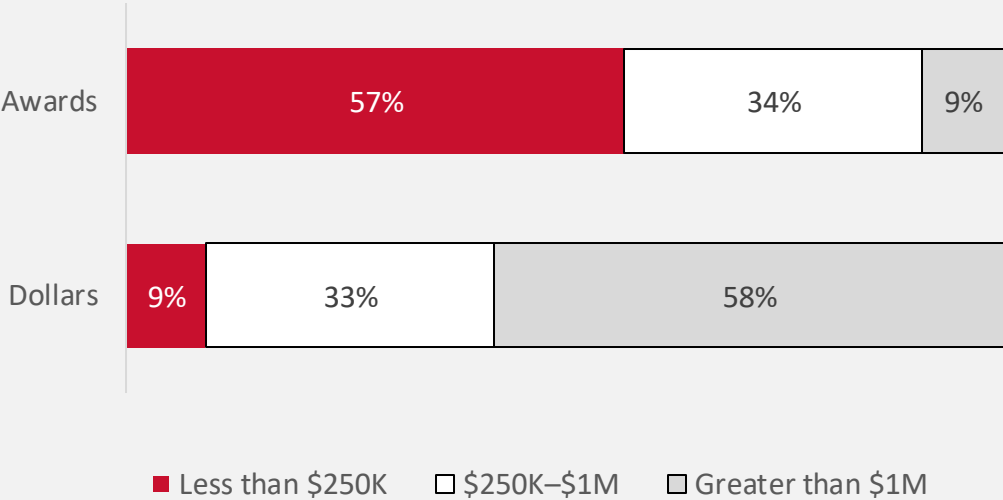


FY25 Award Portfolio

Award Funding Sources

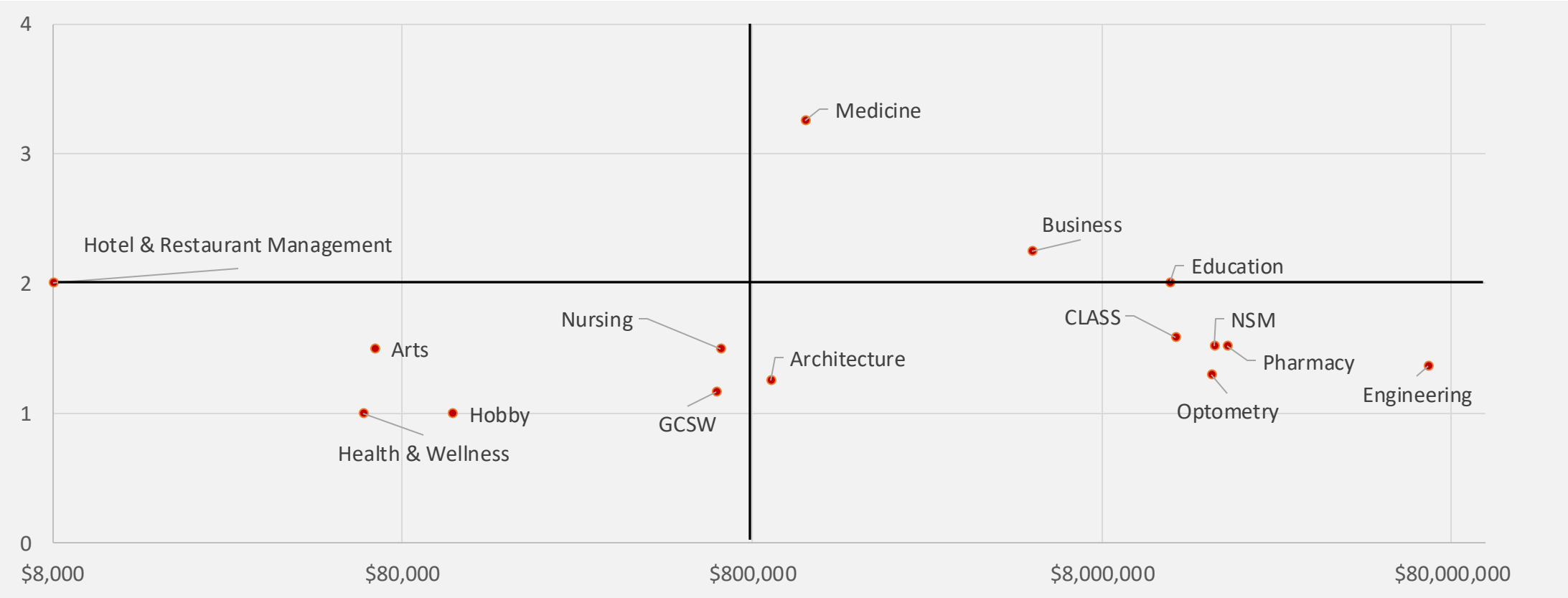


Award Size Distribution



Research Leadership Across Colleges

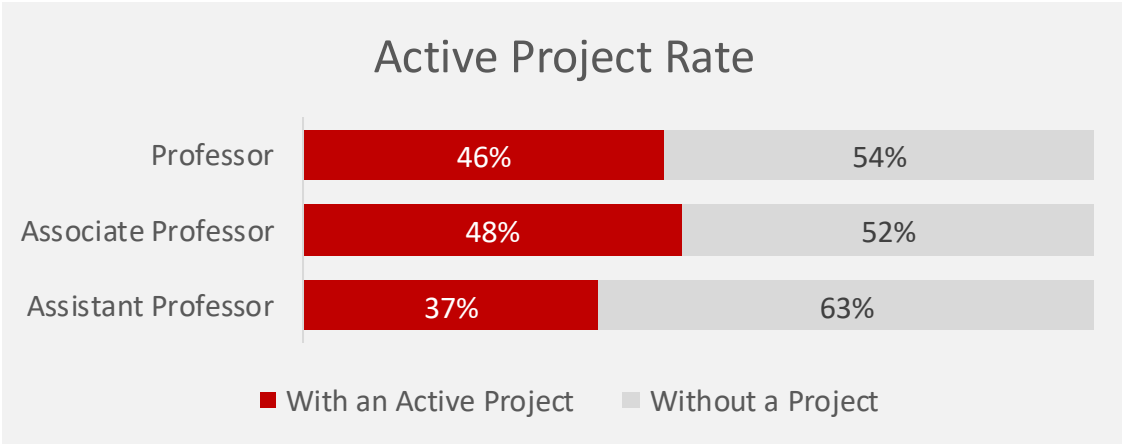
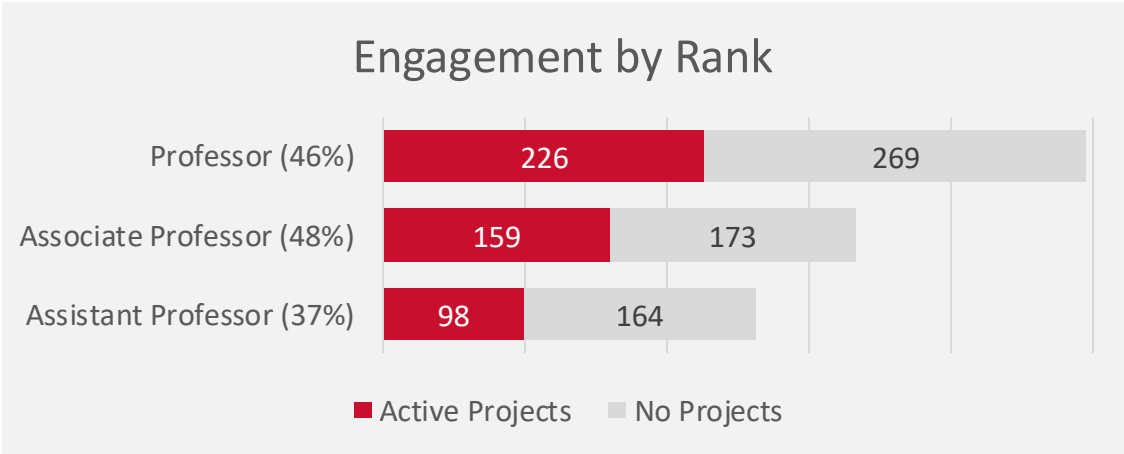
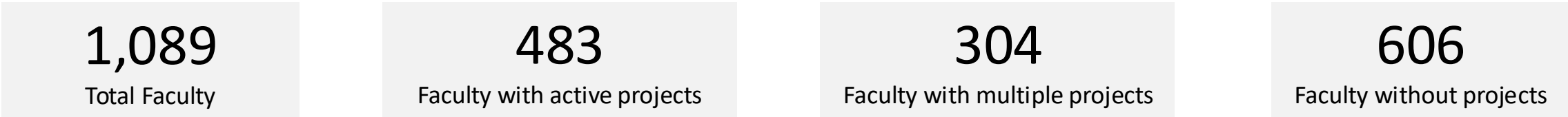
The **Research Connectivity Index** measures the breadth of a college's participation in sponsored research. It compares the number of awards led by the college with the total number of awards in which its faculty participate as either principal investigators or co-principal investigators. A higher index indicates that faculty are engaged in a larger network of research projects, both as leaders and as collaborators.



Award Growth by College

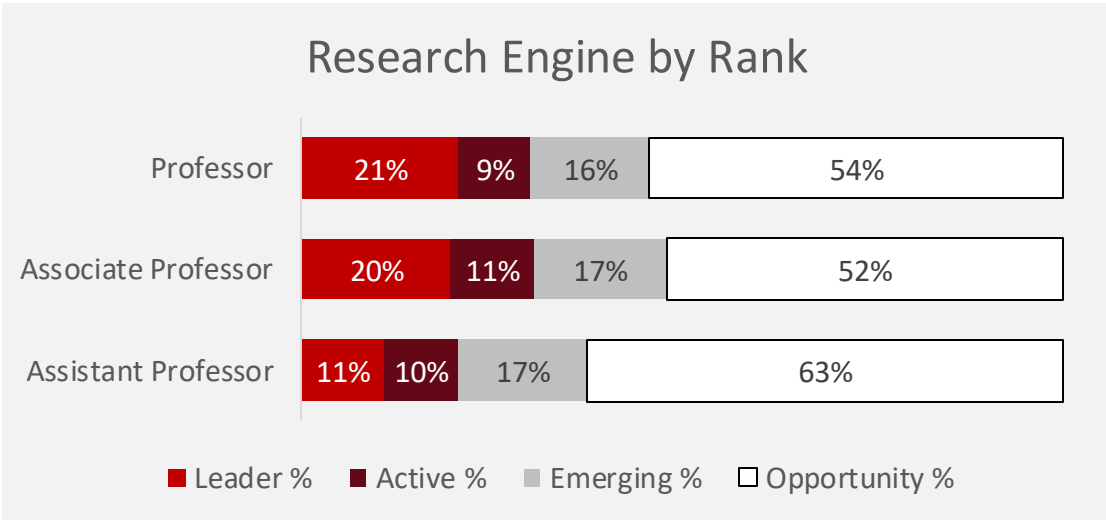
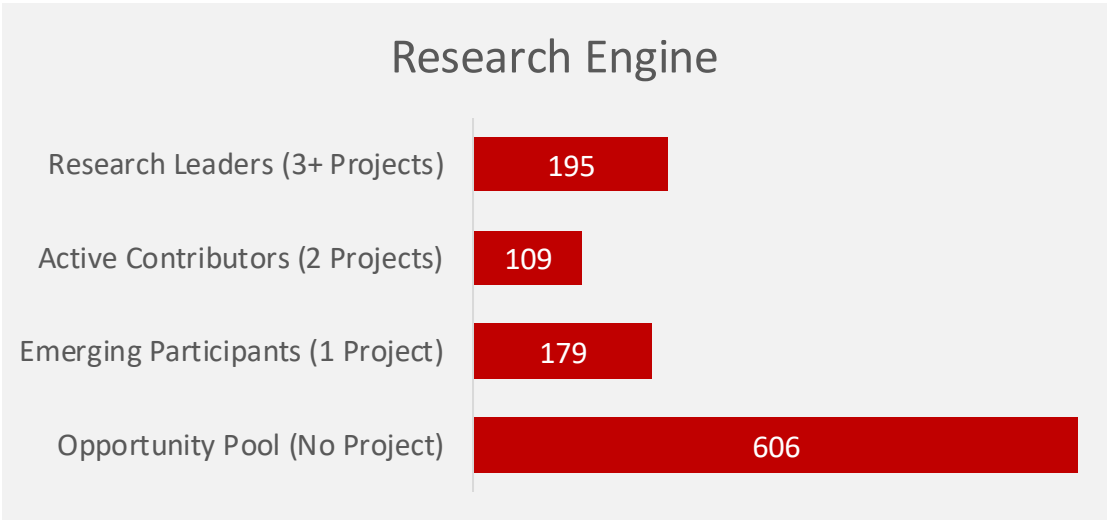
College	FY24 PI Award Dollars	FY25 PI Award Dollars	% Change
Education	\$1,779,361	\$12,567,705	606%
Optometry	\$10,341,163	\$16,440,124	59%
Arts	\$43,500	\$66,515	53%
Business	\$3,840,814	\$5,065,223	32%
Pharmacy	\$15,408,108	\$18,204,590	18%
Nursing	\$0	\$648,247	NA
Hotel and Restaurant Management	\$0	\$8,000	NA
Architecture	\$961,337	\$906,248	-6%
Hobby School of Public Affairs	\$128,370	\$111,350	-13%
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	\$15,493,484	\$12,943,476	-16%
Cullen College of Engineering	\$118,398,794	\$68,320,934	-42%
College of Medicine	\$2,182,146	\$1,131,981	-48%
Natural Sciences and Mathematics	\$33,836,674	\$16,709,443	-51%
Graduate College of Social Work	\$4,940,696	\$632,588	-87%
Honors College	\$40,000	\$0	-100%
Law	\$3,000	\$0	-100%

Research Capacity



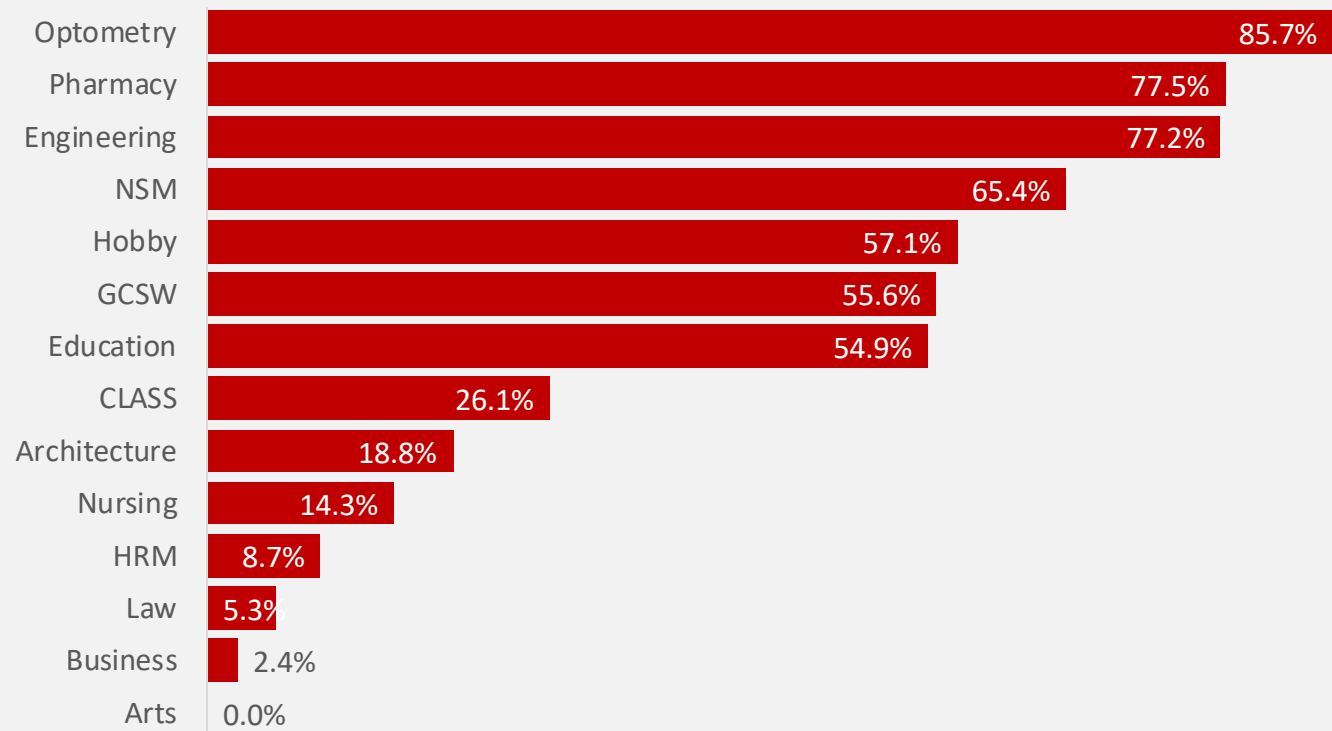
Research Capacity

Research participation is strongest among mid-level faculty. Early-career researchers represent an opportunity for future growth through targeted development and support. The University has a broad base of faculty participation and an opportunity to expand research engagement among faculty who are not currently leading sponsored projects.



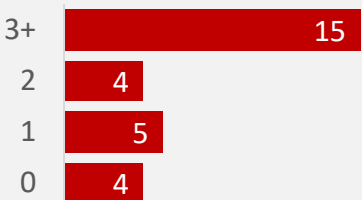
Research Intensity

Active Project Rate

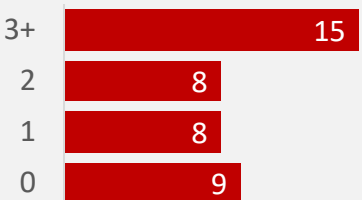


Top Colleges per Ranked Faculty

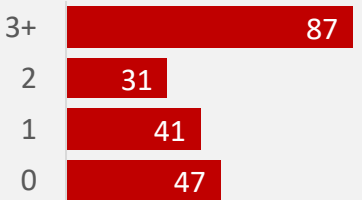
Optometry



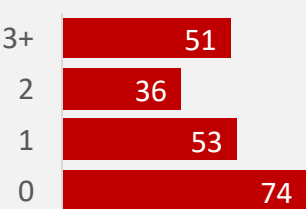
Pharmacy



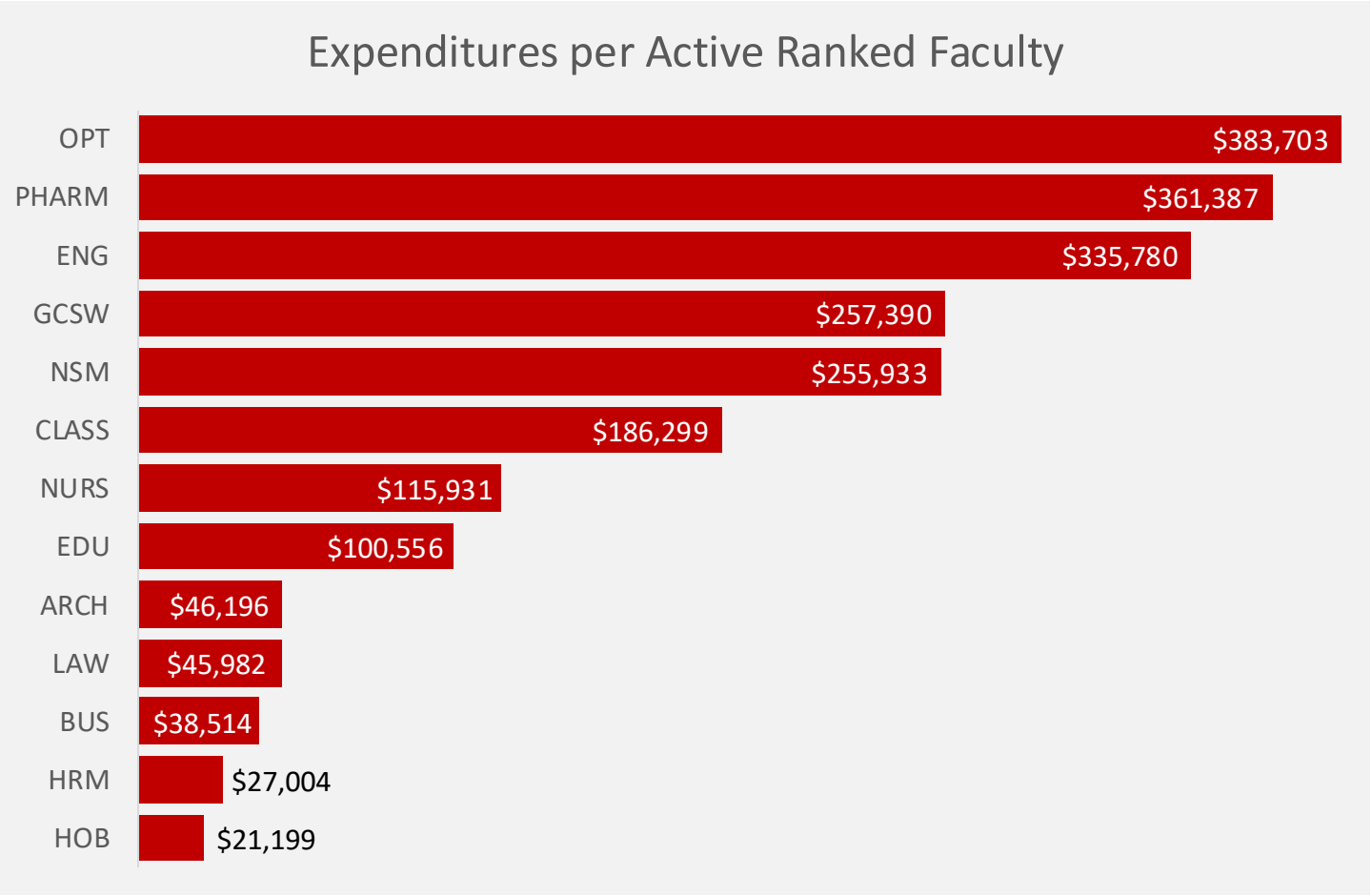
Engineering



NSM



Research Intensity



\$267K
Expenditures per
Active Ranked Faculty

\$329K
Award Dollars per
Active Ranked Faculty

*Calculated using external research
expenditures/new award dollars and
483 active ranked faculty.*

Impact and Outlook

- Highlights

- **Engineering** remains a research powerhouse with 25% of total research expenditures
- **NSM** acts as a primary driver of research volume with the second-largest share of expenditures at 18%.
- **C.T. Bauer College of Business** leads the university in financial efficiency per capita
- **College of Optometry** boasts the highest percentage of its faculty engaged in research
- **College of Education** showcased the most aggressive growth momentum this year with a 138% increase in total awards

- Sustaining Financial Growth

- Total Research Expenditures: Achieved a new high of \$276M, representing a 15% increase from the previous year.
- Sustained Trajectory: Federal research expenditures doubled over the past 10 years.
- Significant Growth: HHS expenditures increased by almost 60% over the last five years.

- Expanding Faculty Engagement

- Faculty Participation: 483 faculty members (44% of ranked faculty) are currently leading active projects.
- Collaborative Strength: Research participation is strongest among mid-level faculty, while early-career researchers represent a strategic opportunity pool for future growth through targeted development.
- College Leadership: Engineering and Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM) continue to lead in total expenditures, while colleges like Optometry and Pharmacy show the highest internal research intensity.

TO SERVE

the research community, grad students, keeping us compliant, satisfying client requirements, protecting our intellectual and financial interests

TO LEAD

managing the conversations, institutional research priorities, leading the implementation, supporting the broader view of individual and small-group research