



The Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research (I3R)

◆ Entrepreneurship Education ◆ Bentonville Campus

Transforming discovery.

Overview:

The Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research (I3R) at the University of Arkansas was made possible through a \$194.7 million grant from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation. The grant funds multiple projects to build supports and pathways to grow the university's cross-disciplinary research capability, expand the scope of discoveries made by University of Arkansas researchers and increase the velocity in which discoveries are transferred to the marketplace where they can improve or save the lives of everyday Americans. Funds are also allocated to entrepreneurship education and a Bentonville Campus.

This grant follows on Phase I funding of \$23.7 million received in fall 2018 from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation that provided gap funding for entrepreneurial projects, built administrative grant support for researchers, expanded patent and licensing processing abilities and created an entrepreneurial Startup Village, among other things.

This Phase II grant, announced July 14, 2020, will be used to build the university's research mission, including construction of a new research building to house the Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research. It will also endow the institute as a core catalyst for cross-disciplinary innovation and commercialization of research, helping the U of A become a destination for the nation's top researchers in these areas as well as expand opportunity for subject-matter experts and scientists from industry to join the clusters.

Research Clusters:

The institute will house five Centers of Excellence, distinct innovation clusters that will drive innovation on the edges between disciplines for an integrated approach to discovery. These fall within the university's Signature Research Areas: [Advancing the Data Revolution](#); [Improving Human Health and Community Vibrancy](#); [Innovating a Resilient and Sustainable Future](#).

Data Science

The U of A will advance data science technology and help transform Arkansas' economy through the application of data science in new ways.

Food + Technology (Food systems & the future of food)

Arkansas is a leader in the production of rice, poultry, corn and more, as well as home to major food producing companies, making the University of Arkansas a natural choice to be the epicenter of research excellence into food systems and the future of food production.

Materials Science & Engineering

Through nanotechnology and other advanced technologies, U of A researchers develop reliable and economically viable materials that support our everyday lives, from clothing that protects us from the sun to cell phone, car and aircraft components that are safer and environmentally sound.

Bioscience & Bioengineering Research in Metabolism

U of A researchers in chemistry, biochemistry, bioengineering and beyond have developed breakthrough technologies in metabolic disease detection and control with discoveries focused on improving and saving lives.

Integrative Systems Neuroscience

This relatively new research focus at the U of A has grown exponentially in the last two years with imaging research and computational approaches that create opportunity for additional cross-disciplinary research.

Funding Breakdown:

Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research (I3R) – \$88 million

A unique approach to research that will distinguish the University of Arkansas by creating a flexible, state-of-the-art collaborative framework designed to facilitate the integration of research across overlapping edges of disciplines. This will help drive discovery, innovation and the distinctiveness of the University of Arkansas.

This includes:

- Endowed chairs & faculty positions
- Faculty start-up matching funds
- Support staff matching funds
- Industry liaison & support
- Operation funding
- Director recruiting support

The I3R Research Facility - \$89 million

This research facility will distinguish the University of Arkansas among research universities by creating a space designed to facilitate the integration of research across five overlapping disciplines. These funds will match the university's investment in a research building, designed to influence and inspire collaborative research and discovery, providing access to services to aid in commercialization and foster industry engagement. It will house a specific number of laboratories, key core facilities and equipment for use by multiple academic researchers as well as industry partners. The facility will offer space for industry collaboration and R&D while research projects leading to commercialization are underway.

Entrepreneurship Education – \$3,535,000

The Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation will receive funds to provide applied and experiential learning opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students. The Honors College will receive internship program support.

- Global start-up competition
- Graduate fellowships
- Honors College Internship support
- Commercialization internships

Bentonville Campus – \$14 million

This fund will provide resources for the initial establishment of the U of A presence in Bentonville to serve as a spoke of the I3R hub in Bentonville including the costs to lease a facility, buildouts or renovation costs, startup, outfitting, furnishings, technology, networking and equipment in the facility as well as a longer-term master plan as a component of the institute's presence in Benton County. A planning process will commence this summer to plan for populating the space comprehensively with outreach, research and relevant lab space, as well as educational space. The Bentonville Campus is subject to approval by the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees and appropriate accrediting agencies.