

“The U of A research community is very excited and extremely grateful for this generous grant. It will accelerate our upward growth trajectory as a R1 research university nationally along multiple fronts in the coming years. The new building will provide state-of-the-art research space for our innovative faculty and students by breaking down the traditional disciplinary silos. The creation of I3R will serve as an innovation hub on campus to reduce the time from discovery to market and further expand our 360-partnership with industry in northwest Arkansas and beyond.”

- Dan Sui, vice chancellor for research and innovation, Distinguished Professor of Geosciences

“This investment will provide the University of Arkansas with the resources necessary to enhance its research capabilities, support entrepreneurship and commercialization and transform the economy of Northwest Arkansas. It will deepen engagement between the University, companies and aspiring entrepreneurs in the region. Northwest Arkansas has been one of the fastest growing regions in the nation over the past decade. This grant will ensure Northwest Arkansas’ future growth and elevate its participation in the knowledge-based economy.”

- Ross DeVol, president and CEO, Heartland Forward

“First I want to publicly express my sincerest appreciation to the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation for their foresight, vision and generosity. One of the great privileges of my position is that I am afforded the opportunity to be present when an event, in this case this transformative gift, provides a path for an institution, a state and a nation to realize its most loftiest goals while serving society in unprecedented ways. The Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research embodies the very highest purposes of higher education. In envisioning I³R, Chancellor Steinmetz understands well Shakespeare’s statement that “There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, when taken at the flood, leads on to fortune”. The process of taking laboratory discoveries addressing the most

confounding issues facing humankind to commercialization to benefit society is a noble goal, and one that is an integral part of the DNA of the I³R.”

- Don Bobbitt, president, University of Arkansas System

“This grant will have a tremendous impact on the University of Arkansas and the economic benefits will certainly be felt beyond the campus,” U.S. Senator John Boozman said. “The creation of the I3R is welcome news that will improve research capabilities and collaboration across industries to support the development of new and innovative methods to meet evolving challenges.”

- U.S. Sen. John Boozman

“The promise of economic vitality begins with research on all fronts. America has been a leader in innovation, and the University of Arkansas is taking a major step to lead the nation in opening the doors to the future. I congratulate Chancellor Steinmetz for his vision and the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation for recognizing the importance of funding this effort. We are blessed to have the rare blend of forward-looking thinking, leadership, and resources to make these dreams possible.”

- U.S. Congressman Steve Womack

“The enhancement of the University of Arkansas’s focus on research to commercialization and entrepreneurship education will have a lasting impact on the state, its businesses, and economy. The funding is a clear position of confidence in the University of Arkansas and will strengthen their position as a leading public research university.”

- Gov. Asa Hutchinson

“All transformational solutions start with questions. How does the University of Arkansas distinguish itself as a great research university among a sea of great and distinguished universities? How do we do that in a way that drives economic

development and creates clear avenues for industry involvement? How do we ultimately change the culture of collaboration in such a way that it advances the research and commercialization profile and production of the university? And how do we change the way we do science on campus? The creation of an interdisciplinary and wholly integrative research institute was the answer.”

- University of Arkansas Chancellor Joseph E. Steinmetz.

“Arkansas has long been known for its entrepreneurial spirit and as a place where businesses thrive. This grant will support the University of Arkansas as it seeks to drive innovation and transform entrepreneurship and research to commercialization for industries nationwide,”

- Stuart Walton, chairman of the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation Board.

“Even during this time of uncertainty – in higher education and beyond – we know the University of Arkansas is positioned to become a national leader in research and innovation. This grant is a step toward building a stable economy and a future where we are better equipped to respond to a changing environment.”

- Heather Larkin, president and CEO of the Arkansas Community Foundation and board member of the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation.

“This grant will have an enormous impact not only on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region and state, but on our campus as well. This change will be accomplished through deep engagement of university faculty and students in research, discovery and innovation, entrepreneurship education and commercialization of research.”

- Charles Robinson, interim provost and vice chancellor for student and academic affairs.