



Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Taylor Randall

President, University of Utah

Thursday, February 5, 2026

A BOLD 250 YEAR EXPERIMENT



“Freedom can exist only in the society of knowledge. Without learning, men [and women] are incapable of knowing their rights, and where learning is confined to a few people, liberty can be neither equal nor universal.”

-Benjamin Rush, founder of Dickinson College 1786
Signer of the Declaration of Independence



EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

1776

1930

2026

1

2

3

FOCUS ON SOCIETAL IMPACT

FOCUS ON RESEARCH / ACADEMIC MEDICINE

FOCUS ON NATION BUILDING / FUNDAMENTAL ACADEMICS



OUR VISION

Impact 2030 Strategy

To improve the life of every Utahn and advance a new national higher education model for delivering societal impact.

IMPACT UNIVERSITY

- **Entrepreneurial**
- **Partnerships**
- **Outward Facing**
- **Solution Driven**

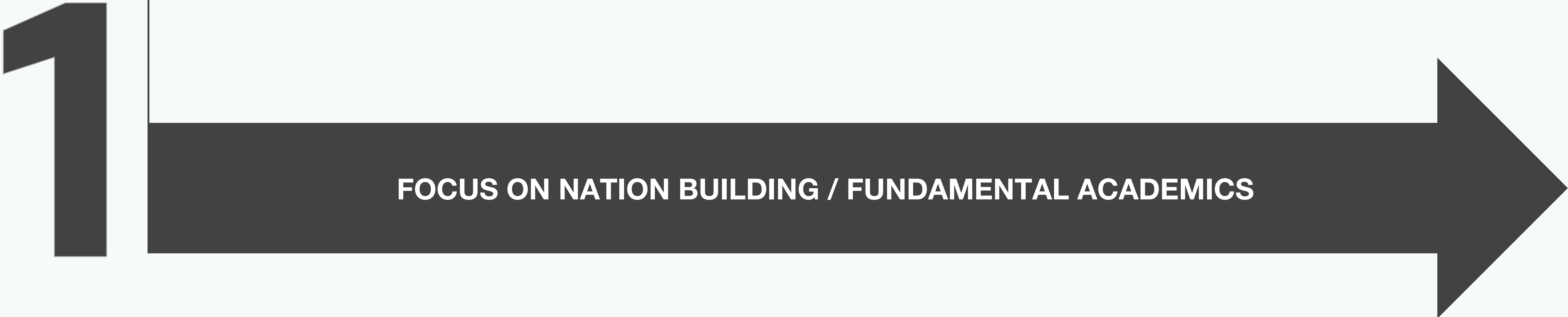




ACADEMICS

EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

1776



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Announced, **presidential initiative on federalism, law, and American governance**, January 26, 2026
 - Emphasizing **foundational tenets** through research, teaching and public engagement efforts
 - West Virginia University President Emeritus **Gordon Gee** and Harvard Kennedy School Professor **Arthur C. Brooks**
- **Debate Across the Curriculum** engaging 20 faculty, 25 classes reaching more than 1,000 students

REFOCUS ON FUNDAMENTALS



“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.” – Benjamin Franklin



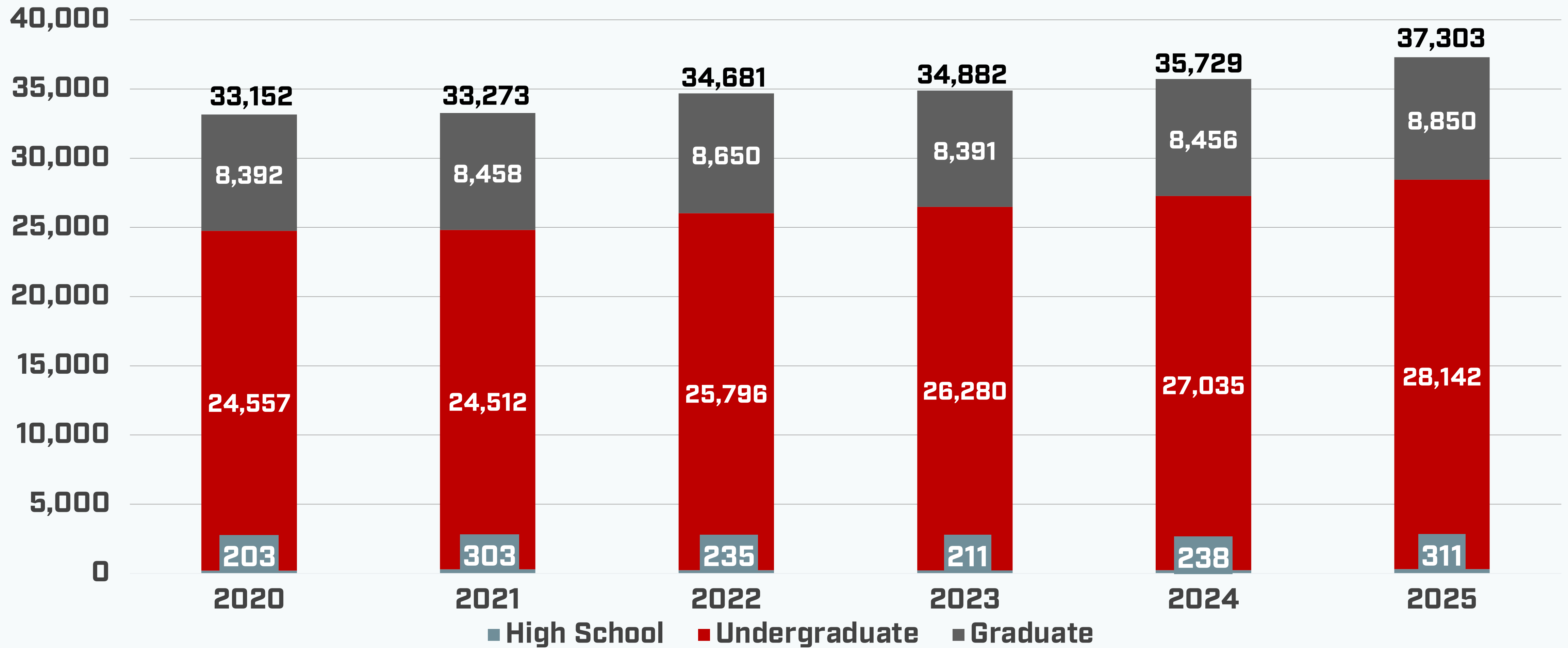
INCREASING ENROLLMENT

- Fall 2025 marked the 6th consecutive year of growth
- 1,300 newly transferred students
- 6% increase of first-time resident enrollment from 2024
- Total enrollment eclipsed 38,000 in fall 2025-26



Annual Block U Photo, Fall 2025

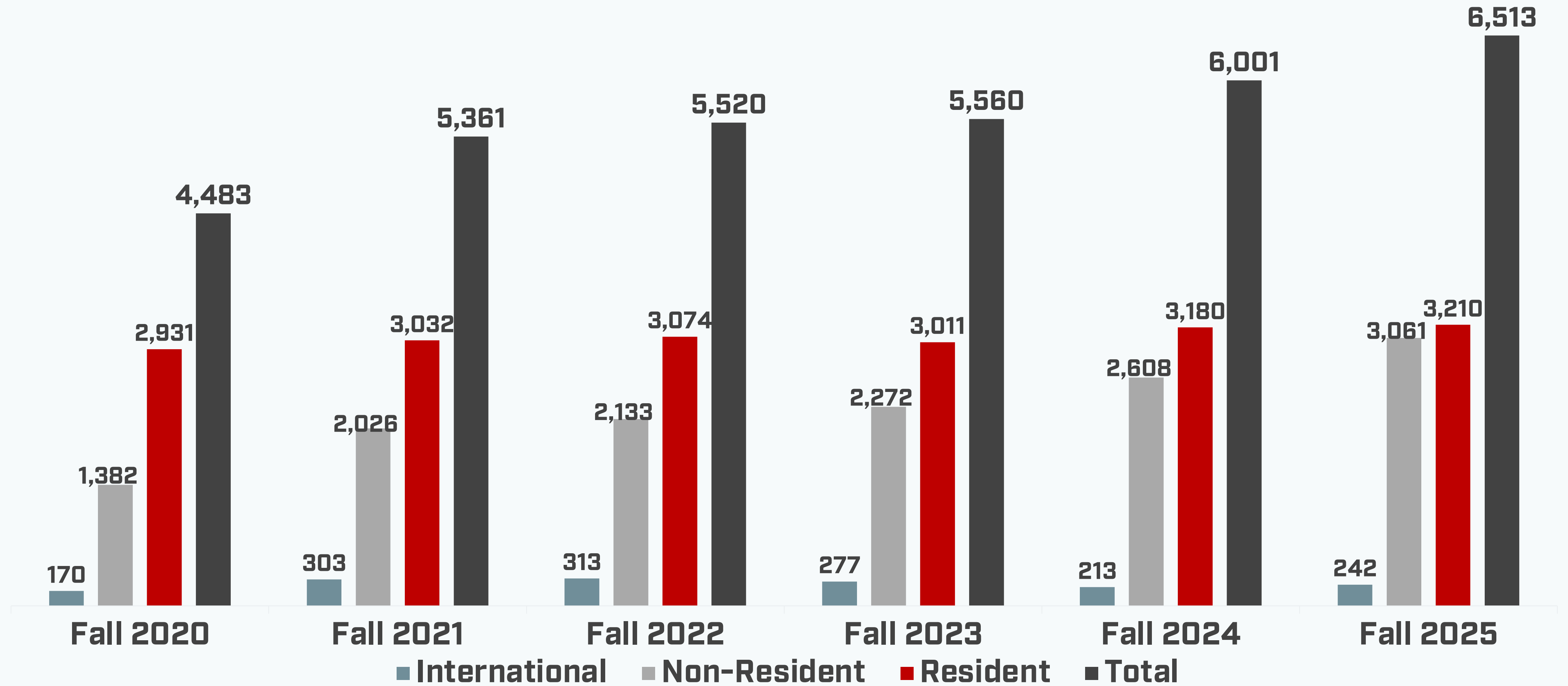
TOTAL HEADCOUNT MIX



Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



FIRST-YEAR HEADCOUNT

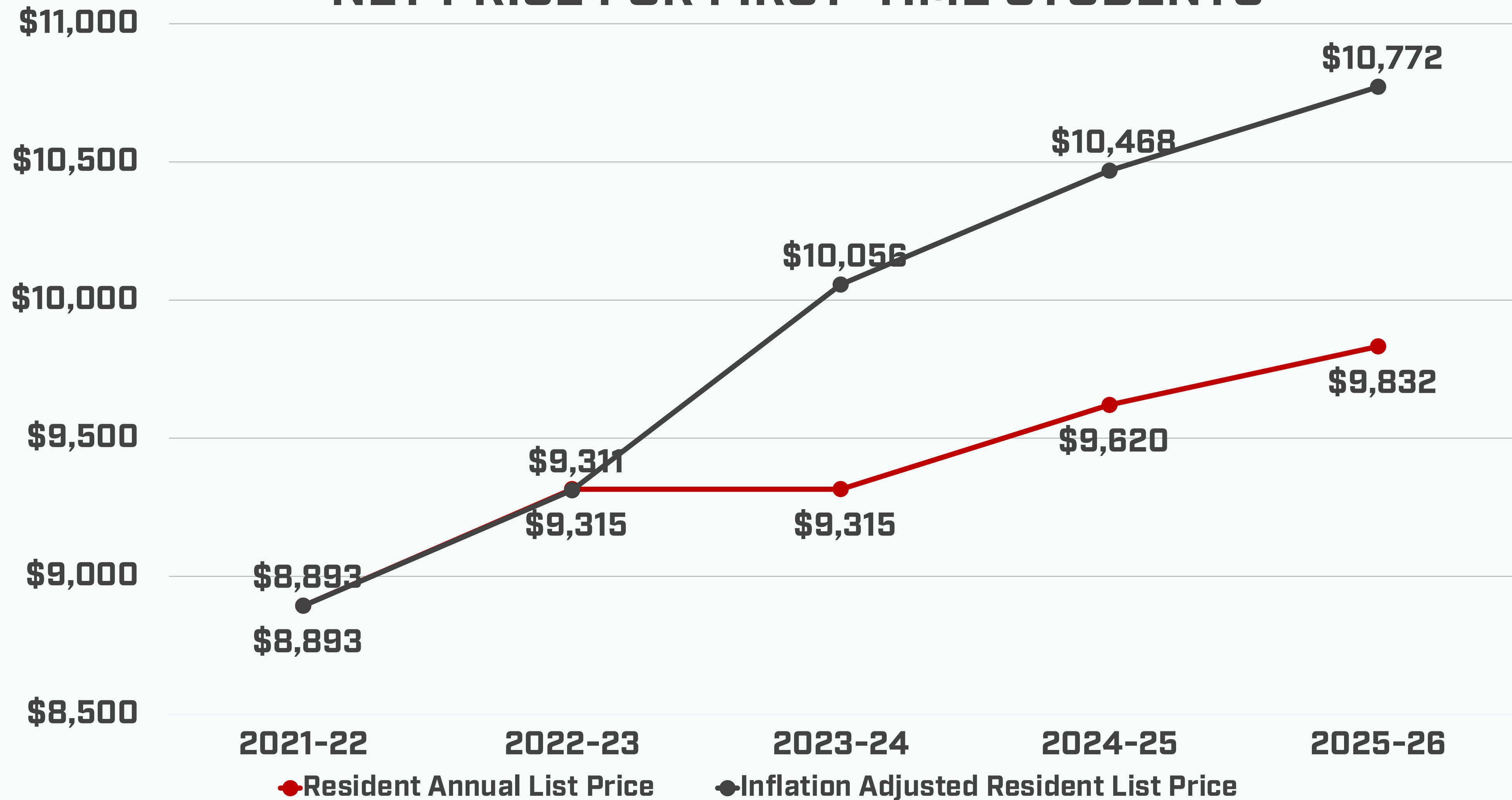


Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



LIST PRICE TUITION & INFLATION

NET PRICE FOR FIRST-TIME STUDENTS



Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



STUDENT AID SUMMARY

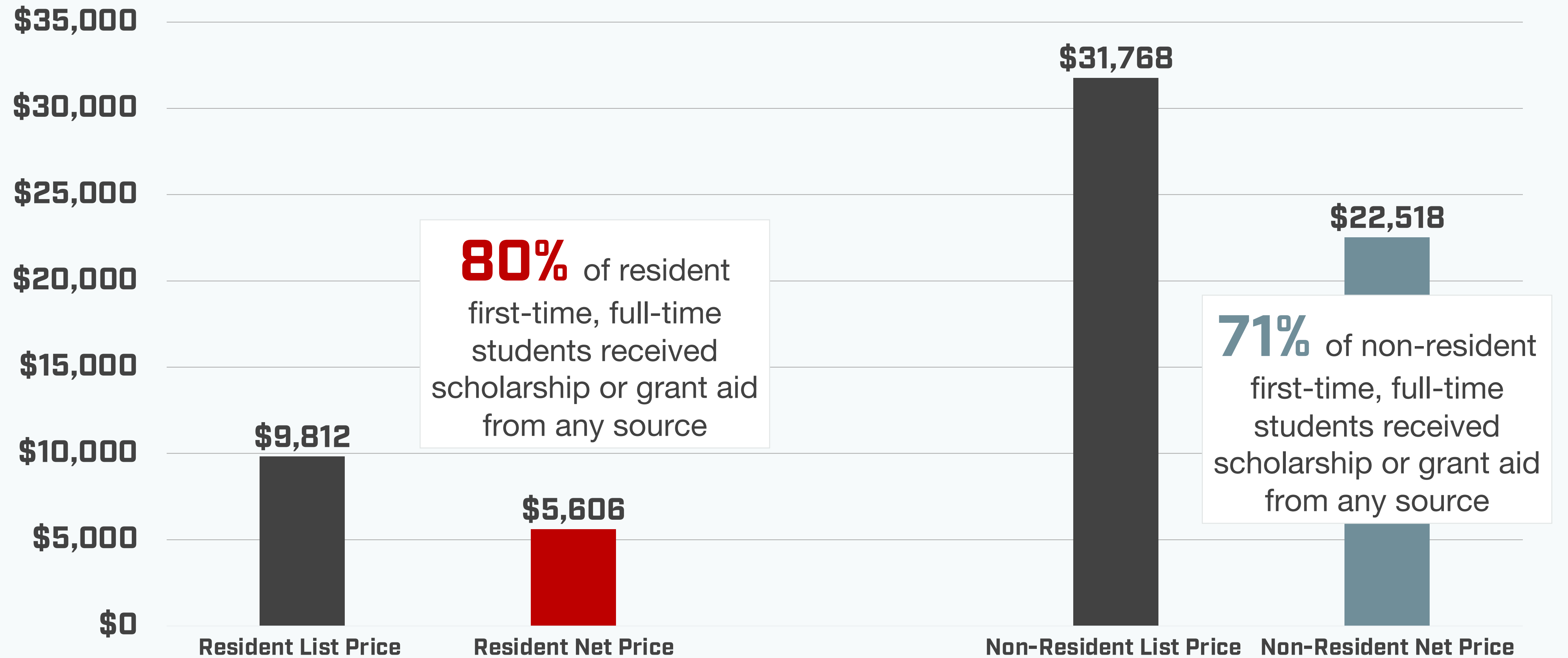
2024-25	RESIDENT Undergraduate	NON-RESIDENT Undergraduate	TOTAL
Federal Gift Aid	\$32,920,000	\$4,420,000	\$37,340,000
State Gift Aid (Utah)	\$5,650,000	\$0	\$5,650,000
Funded Institutional Awards	\$22,240,000	\$4,160,000	\$26,380,000
Other Outside Gift Aid	\$7,110,000	\$4,320,000	\$11,430,000
TOTAL	\$67,920,000	\$12,900,000	\$80,800,000

Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



TUITION AND FEES

LIST & NET PRICE FOR FIRST-TIME STUDENTS 2025-2026



Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



UTAH PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

BEGINNING FALL 2026



admissions.utah.edu

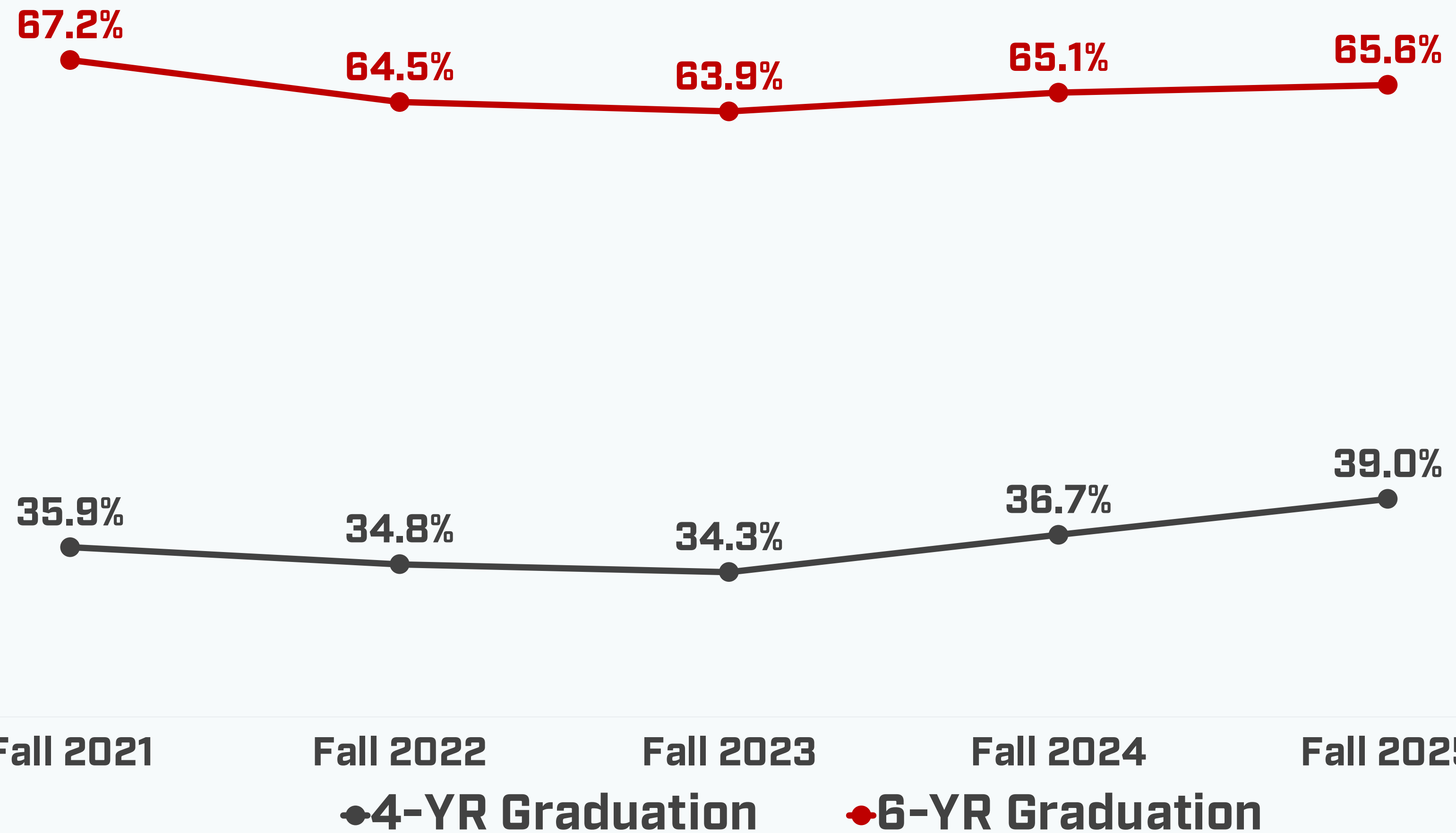
- **Covers full tuition and mandatory fees**
- Utah residents, 3.5+ GPA
- First-time, first-year students
- Annual family income and assets each totaling less than \$100,000*

*As determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



IMPROVING GRADUATION RATE

FIRST-TIME, FIRST-YEAR, FULL-TIME GRADUATION RATES

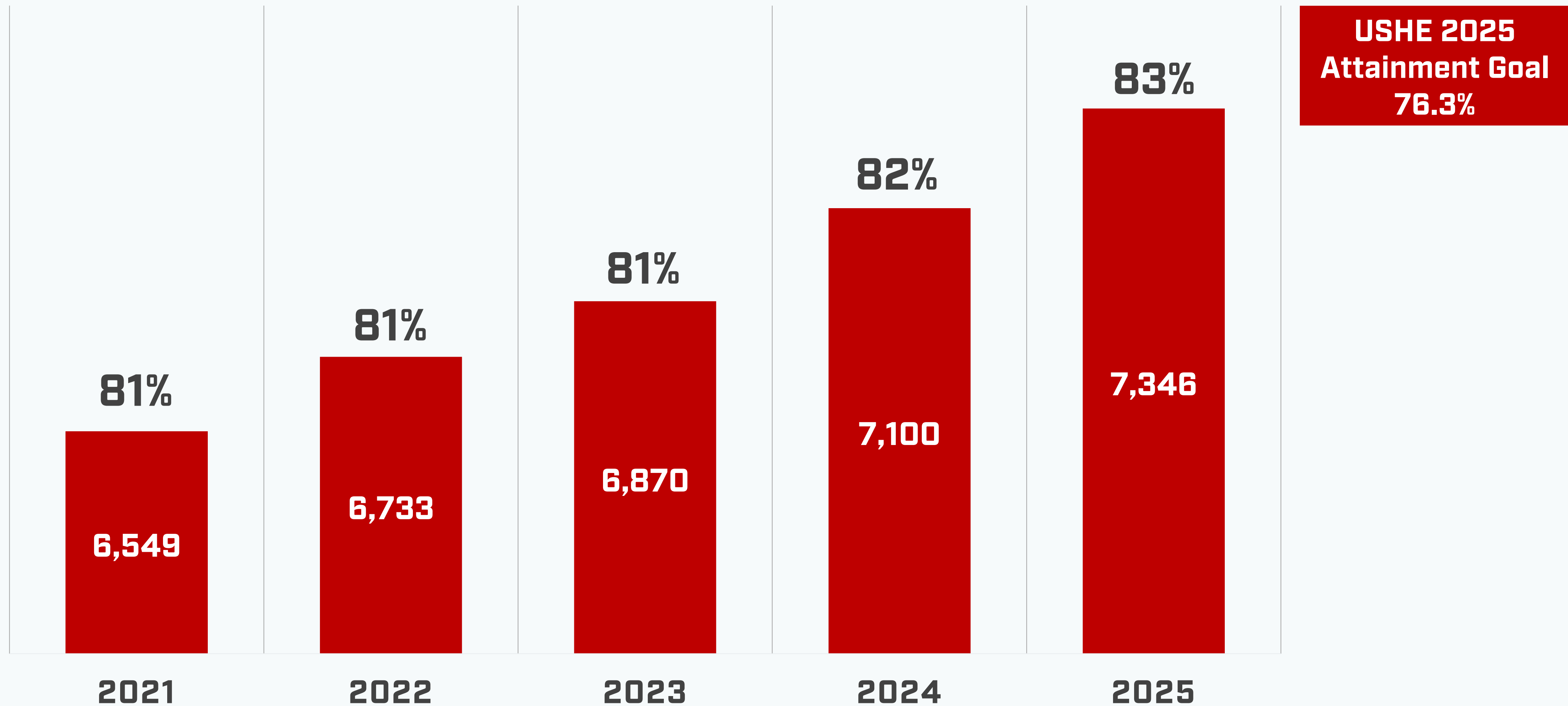


Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



HIGH-YIELD WORKFORCE DEGREES

HIGH YIELD* GRADUATES & AWARD RATE



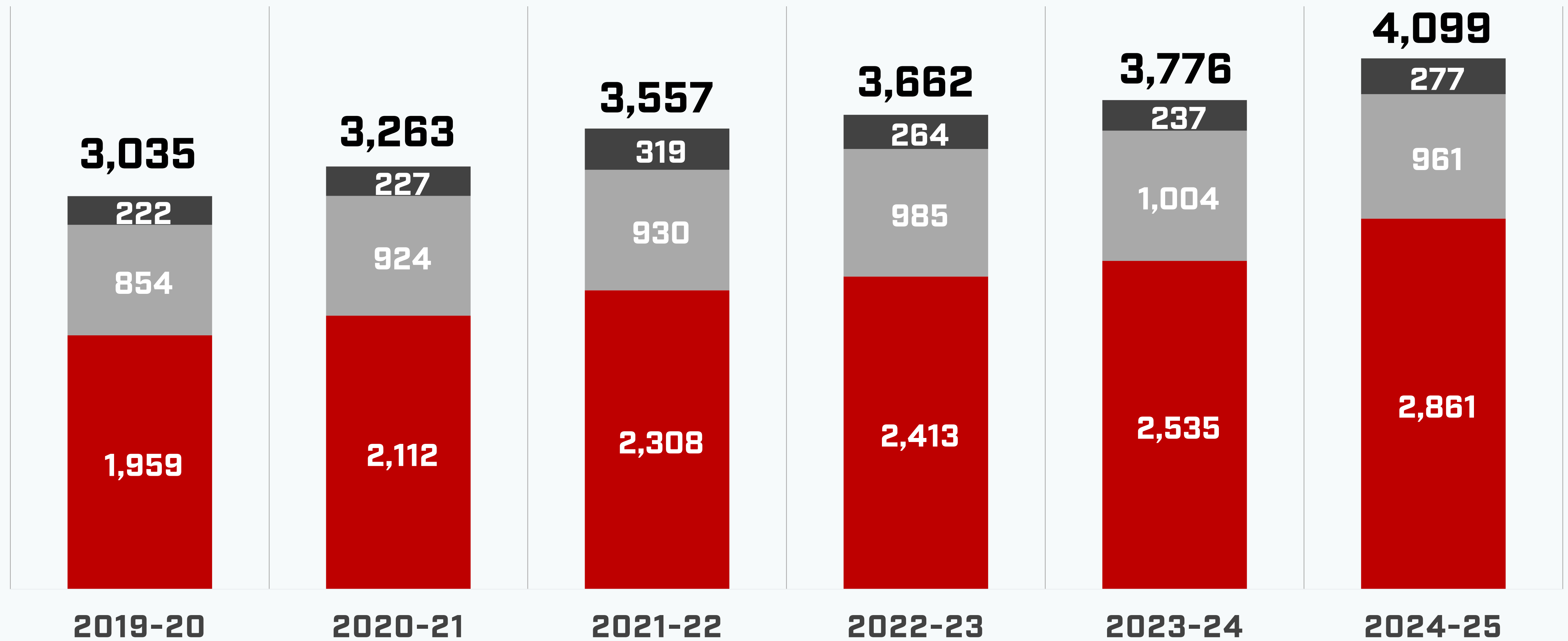
*Students who graduate with an award that maps to a 4- or 5-Star occupation identified by Utah Department of Work Services.
Source: Utah System of Higher Education



HIGH-YIELD WORKFORCE DEGREES

STEM DEGREES AWARDED

■ Bachelors ■ Masters ■ Doctorate



Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



2024-25 AVERAGE SALARIES

\$65,000

Self-reported annual salary for University of Utah bachelors degree recipients

\$48,600

Utah median 2024

Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



JOB PLACEMENT OUTCOMES

86% resident grads employed
within a year of graduation

56% non-resident grads
employed or attending graduate school
in Utah within a year of graduation

75% employed graduates are
employed in Utah

Source: University of Utah: Analytics and Institutional Reporting (UAIR)



U grads are significantly earning more than the Utah median.



QUESTIONS?





RESEARCH

EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

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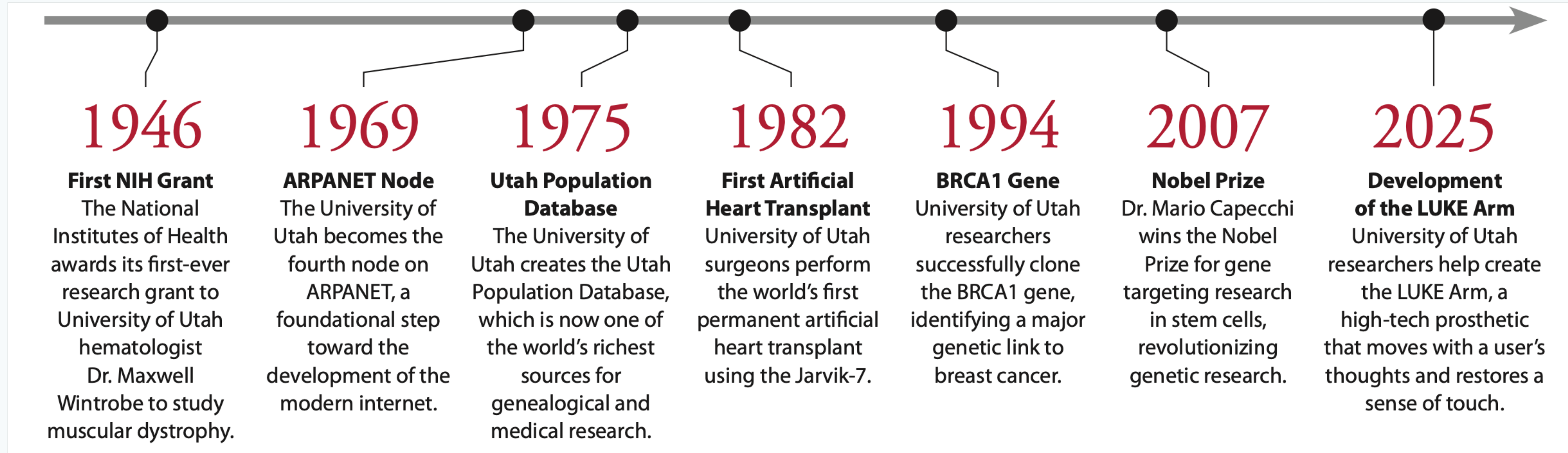
FOCUS ON RESEARCH / ACADEMIC MEDICINE

FOCUS ON NATION BUILDING / FUNDAMENTAL ACADEMICS

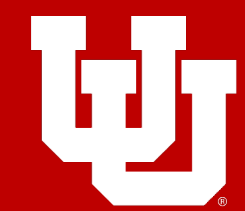


HISTORY OF U RESEARCH

SELECT RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

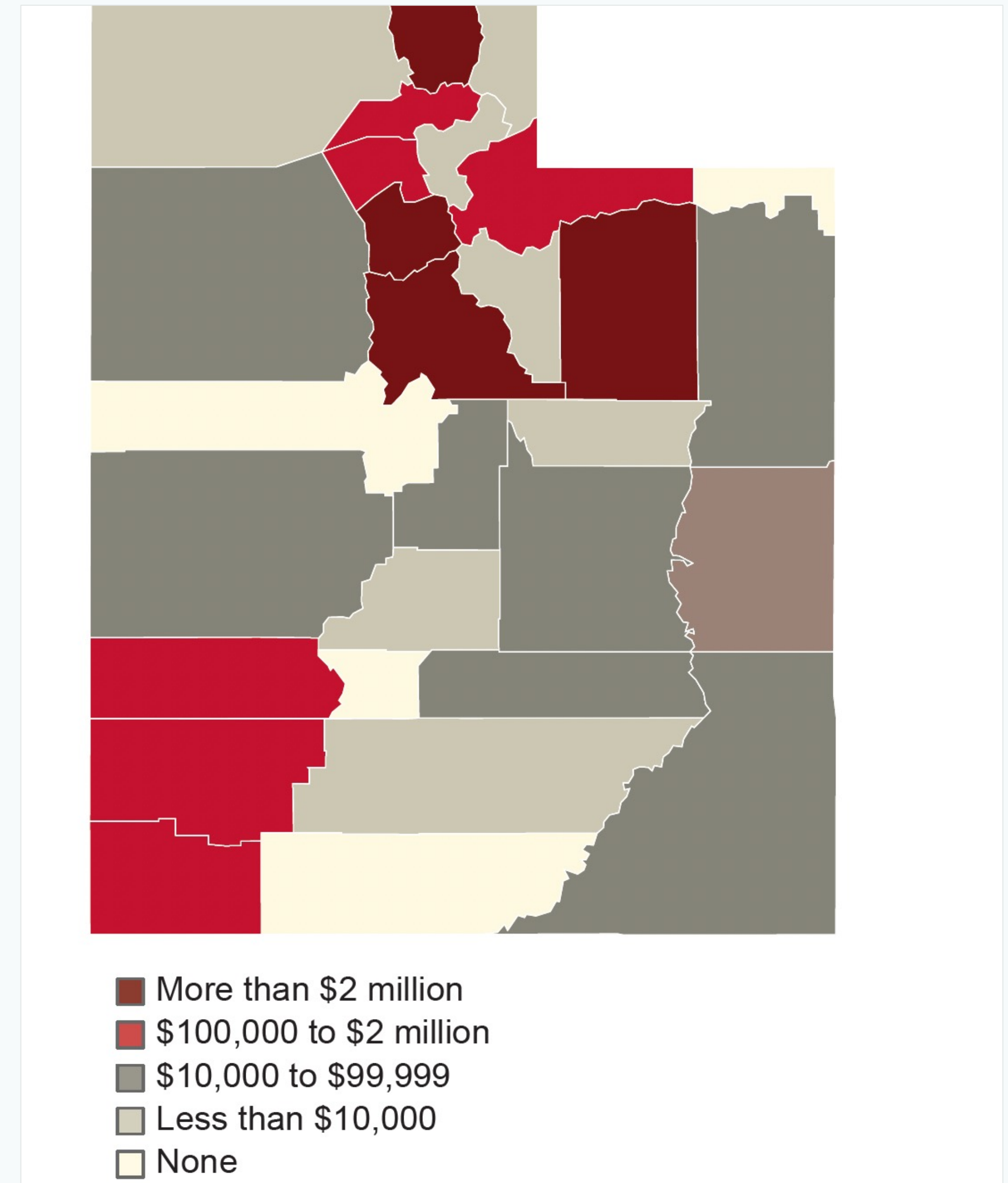


Source: University of Utah, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute



LEADING IN RESEARCH

- **Research Spending:** The U's research expenditures across the state totaled \$734 million in FY2025, the most of any year on record
- **Statewide Reach:** U research funding supports activity in 25 of Utah's 29 counties
- **National Ranking:** The U ranks among the nation's top 50 research universities for research and development spending



University of Utah Vendor and Subaward Research Expenditures to Utah Counties, FY2024.

RESEARCH IS A MULTIPLIER

U of U Research

Boosts the Economy and
Creates Jobs

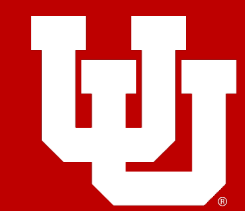
12,760
Employees

Economic Activity FY 2025

\$584M
Earnings

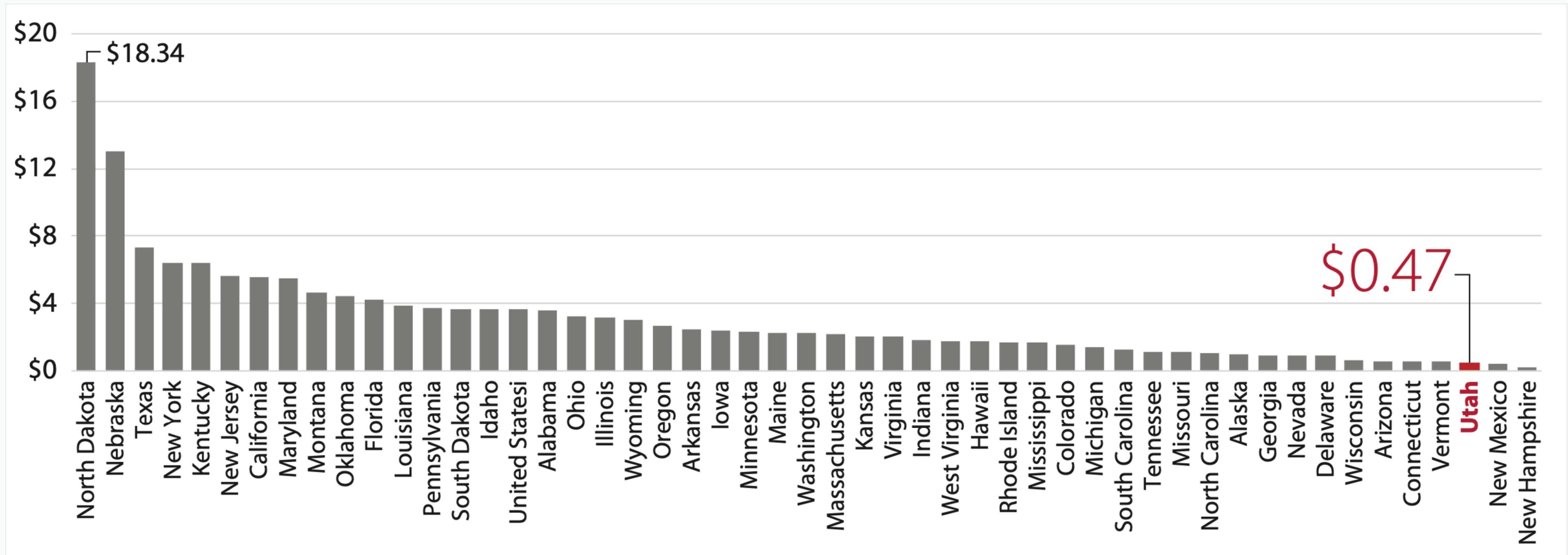
\$805M
GDP

\$1.6B
Output



INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH

STATE PER CAPITA \$M INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH



Source: University of Utah, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, FY2023



Erin Rothwell

Vice President for Research
University of Utah

ROBUST & COMPETITIVE

FY2025 RESEARCH AT SCALE

3,696

PROPOSALS

2,577

AWARDS

\$782M

FUNDING

\$3.27B

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

This robust research base is what enables both groundbreaking discovery and applied, use-inspired research that serves the state.

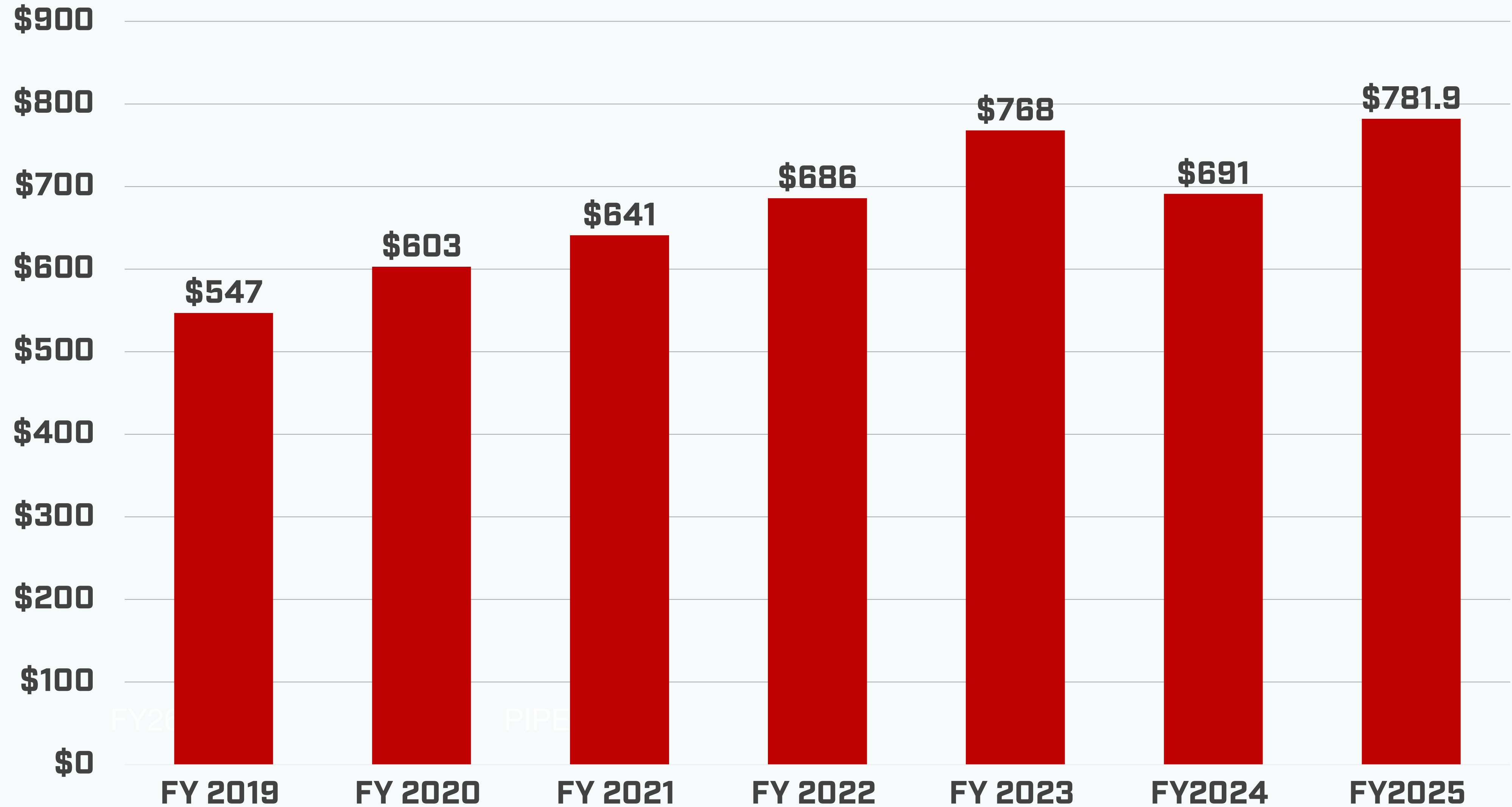


In 2025 Luke Arm in clinical trials to test day-to-day use.



FUNDING AWARDS

Millions

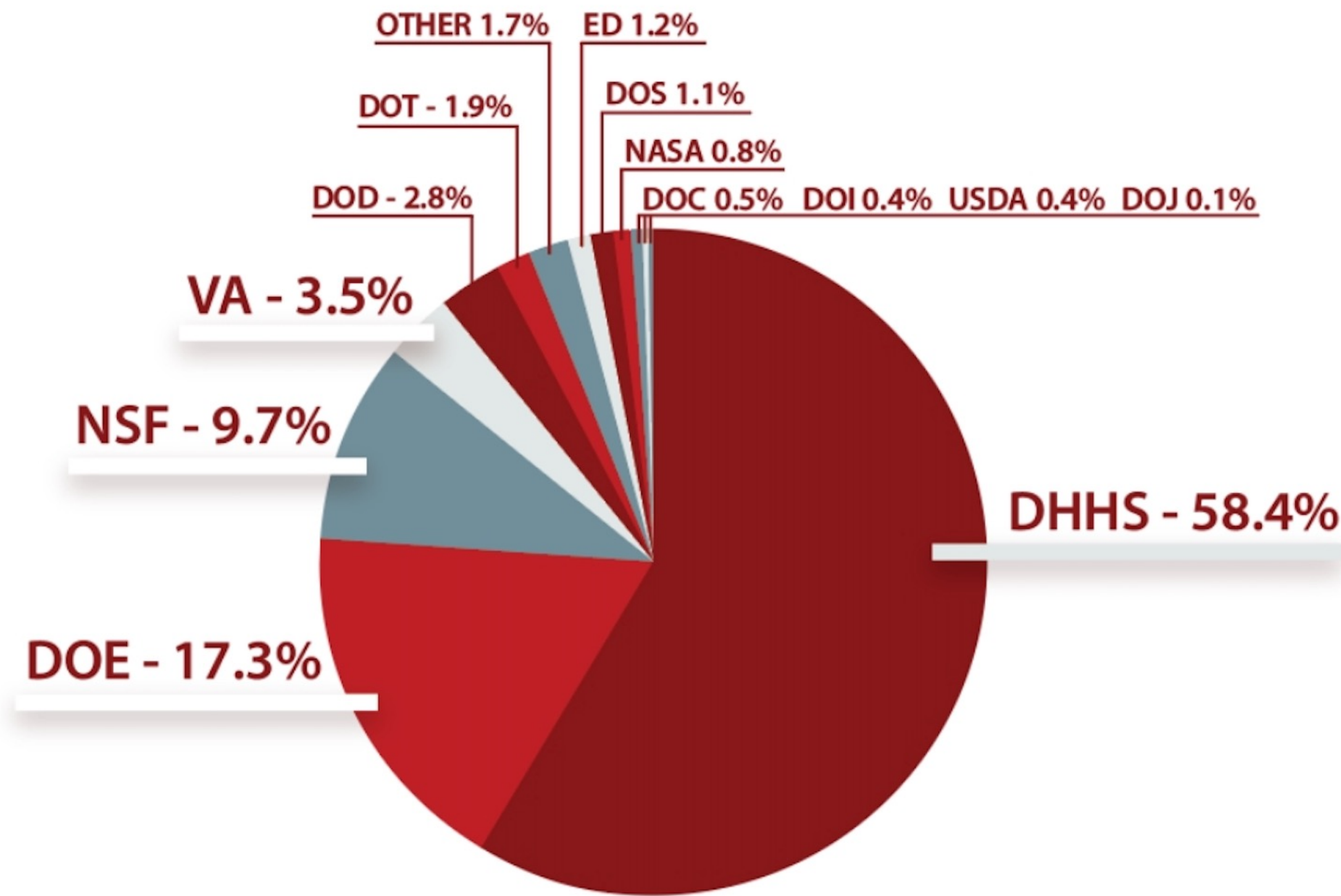


Source: University of Utah: Office of the Vice President for Research

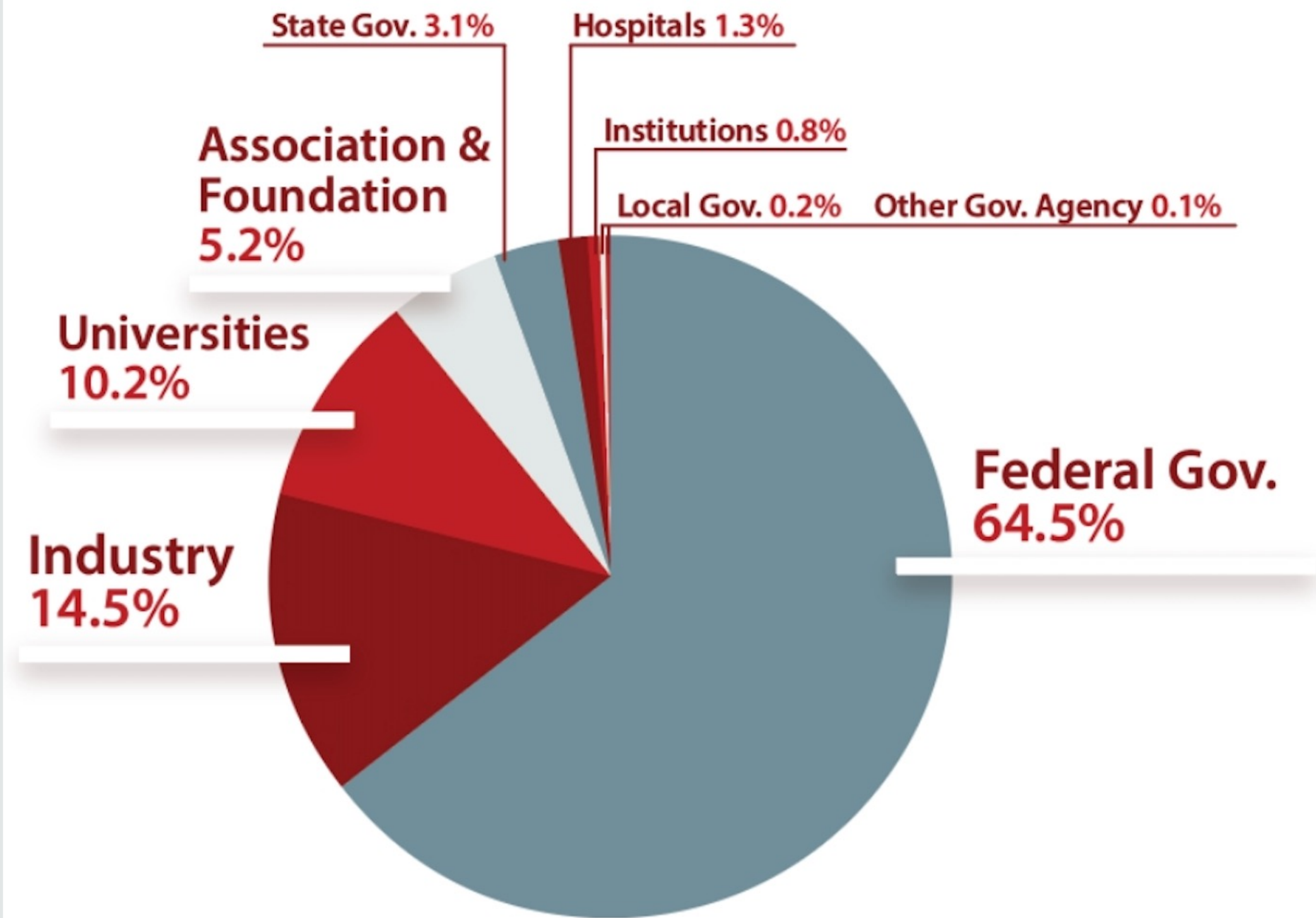


FUNDING SOURCES

FEDERAL SPONSORS



ALL SPONSORS



In FY25, the University of Utah received \$781.9 million in research funding, support that spans health, technology, and society, touching every corner of discovery.

Source: University of Utah: Office of the Vice President for Research



DISCOVERY TO IMPACT

FY25 INVENTIONS

542

FY26 STARTUPS

LAUNCHED

9

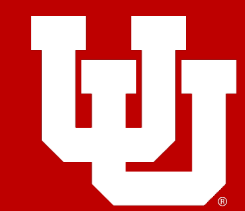
IN PIPELINE

31

Source: University of Utah: Office of the Vice President for Research



Dr. Wes Sundquist's revolutionary therapeutic Lenacapavir was featured on TIME's Best Inventions of 2025 list.



UTAH'S INNOVATION ENGINE

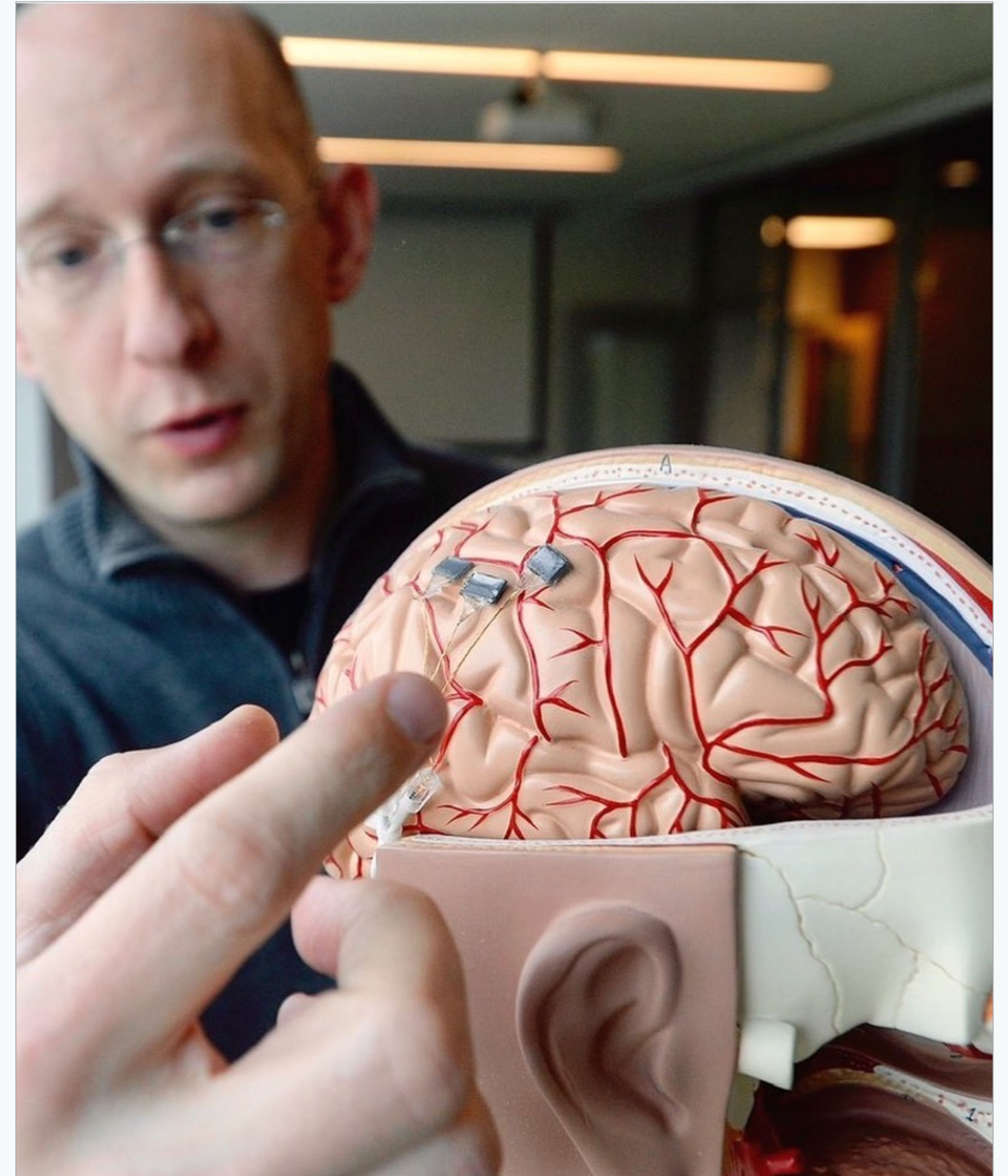
#1

in the nation for innovation capacity & outcomes

#2

nationally in likelihood of producing a unicorn startup

Source: University of Utah: Office of the Vice President for Research



Blackrock Neurotech brain-computer interface technology received the FDA's coveted "Breakthrough Device" designation.



QUESTIONS?



SOCIETAL IMPACT

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BUDGET UPDATES

2025

UTU-U PARTNERSHIP

2025 Funding Request Update

Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine partnership with Utah Tech University in St. George.

- Enrolling 10 student cohort: Fall 2026



Southern Utah Regional Medical Campus (SURMC)



HCI 2nd CAMPUS IN VINEYARD

2025 Funding Request Update

Huntsman Cancer Institute's second
Comprehensive Cancer Center.

- Groundbreaking: April 8, 2025
- Opening to patients: 2028



Groundbreaking of Huntsman Cancer Institute
Vineyard Campus, April 8, 2025

ECCLES HEALTH CAMPUS IN WEST VALLEY

2025 Funding Request Update

Eccles Health Campus & Eccles Hospital in West Valley.

- Groundbreaking: June 13, 2025
- Opening to patients: 2028
- In-patient Hospital: 2029



Groundbreaking for the Eccles Health Campus & Eccles Hospital in West Valley, June 13, 2025



H.B. 265 REINVESTMENTS

PHASE 1 PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC CUTS AND REINVESTMENTS

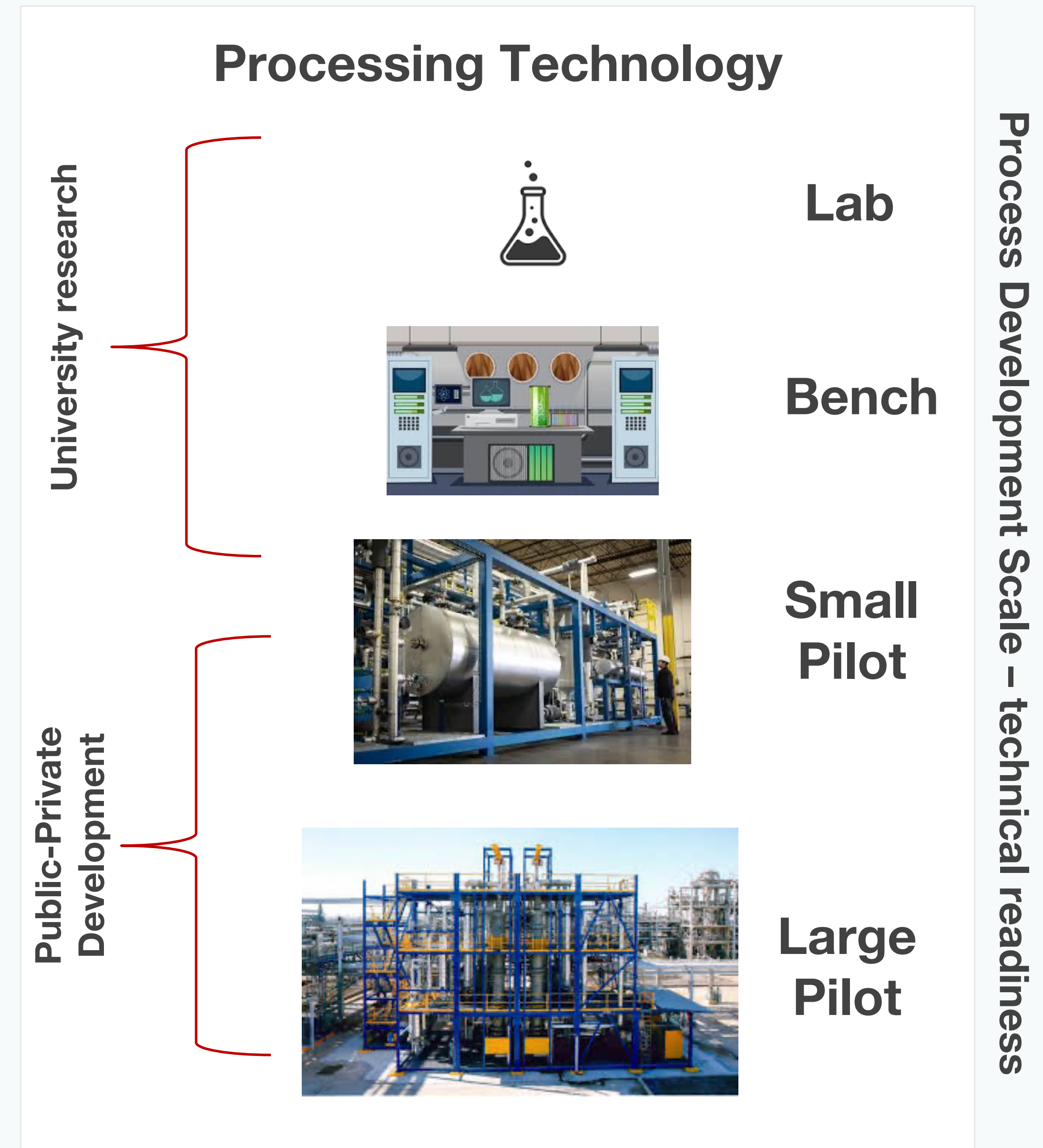
PHASE 1 FY26 Reallocation & Reinvestment Line Items	
AI	\$2,032,736
BIOTECHNOLOGY	\$300,000
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	\$297,052
ENGINEERING	\$2,699,750
NURSING & SIMULATION	\$686,455
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	\$1,393,783
FINANCIAL PLANNING	\$642,500
TOTALS	\$8,052,276

Phase 1 Highlights. Reported to the Higher Education Appropriations Committee August 19, 2025

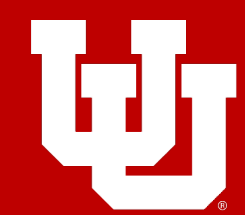


CRITICAL MINERALS

- **\$12.5M in active federal grants**
- **Core partner** in Utah's critical minerals ecosystem
- **On-campus processing capabilities** to convert raw ores into critical metals
- **Academic programs and talent pipeline** focused on critical minerals disciplines
- **Proven grant development expertise**



The U has a history of expertise and proven ability to facilitate critical minerals research & development.



AI COMPUTING ECOSYSTEM

- **\$50 million, 5-year shared investment**
- **State-of-the-art AI** computing and data cyberinfrastructure, **3.5x compute power**
- Advances Utah's position as a national **AI research and innovation leader**
- Enables AI-enabled **discovery, student training, workforce development, and entrepreneurship**

UTAH AI INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM:
Driving economic growth & prosperity

A public/private partnership between the State of Utah, the University of Utah, the Huntsman Family Foundation and NVIDIA & Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) to accelerate innovation, attract talent and expertise from around the world, and engage industry and community to build a prosperous future for Utah.

\$50M
5-YEAR SHARED INVESTMENT

\$50 MILLION, 5-YEAR SHARED INVESTMENT

- State-of-the-art AI computing and data cyberinfrastructure, along with support services and expertise
- Advances Utah's position as a national AI research and innovation leader
- Enables AI-enabled discovery, student training, workforce development, and entrepreneurship
- Faster translation of discoveries to the public
- Statewide AI working group to reach all Utahns
- Partnerships with industry

CONVERGENCE OF GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, ACADEMIC STRENGTHS, AND INDUSTRY MOMENTUM

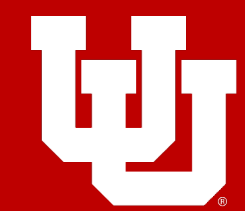
- Utah Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy
- Statewide MOU with NVIDIA
- University of Utah Top 500 universities globally in AI-focused research
- One-U Responsible AI Initiative
- ChatGPT EDU, a university-centered generative AI tool for campus
- Trace AQ, a university startup company, developed AI-powered tool to forecast wildfire smoke
- Utah Population Database and other unique data assets

ChatGPT EDU
UNIVERSITY-CENTERED AI TOOL

TOP 500
UNIVERSITIES IN AI-FOCUSED RESEARCH

Logos at the bottom: Utah State Government, The University of Utah, Huntsman Family Foundation, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, NVIDIA.

Growing cyberinfrastructure via public private partnership.



AI-ENABLED DISCOVERY

- U researchers have identified **50+ inherited cancer-causing genes**
- A global leader in genetics research, **built on decades of discovery** (Nobel Prize, Mario Capecchi, 2007)
- A major **opportunity for Utah to lead** in genetics and precision health
- **Secure, AI-enabled platform** combining genealogy and disease data

UTAH HEALTH AI VAULT (UHAIV)

Utah

Genealogy on 11,000,000+ people

Health

Longitudinal health data

Artificial Intelligence

State-of-the-art technology

Vault

World-class digital security



Empowering researchers with state-of-the-art tools to unlock new discovery for disease treatments.

EXPANDING THE CARE PIPELINE

- Expanding physician **training and retention in southern Utah**
- Increasing the number of physicians who **train, remain, and practice in rural communities**
- This funding would add at least **10 new medical residents per year** in southern Utah
- Accelerates entry into care workforce through a **three-year M.D. program**



Creating a direct pipeline from medical school into rural residency programs and long-term practice.

BUDGET REQUESTS

2026

2026 REQUEST SUMMARY

	DESCRIPTION	REQUEST DURATION	REQUEST AMOUNT
#1.	AI COMPUTING ECOSYSTEM U, HPE-Nvidia, Huntsman Family Foundation Public Private Partnership University of Utah support Huntsman Family Foundation match	ongoing state 5 years 5 years	\$5 million \$3 million \$2 million
#2	AI-ENABLED DISCOVERY Utah Health AI Vault (UHAIV) University of Utah support	one time state one time	\$18.6 million \$12.3 million
#3	EXPANDING THE CARE PIPELINE Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine Expansion in Southern Utah	ongoing state one time state	\$2.59 million \$750,000



**THANK YOU.
QUESTIONS?**

