

# Senate State Affairs Committee

**Anupma Prakash**

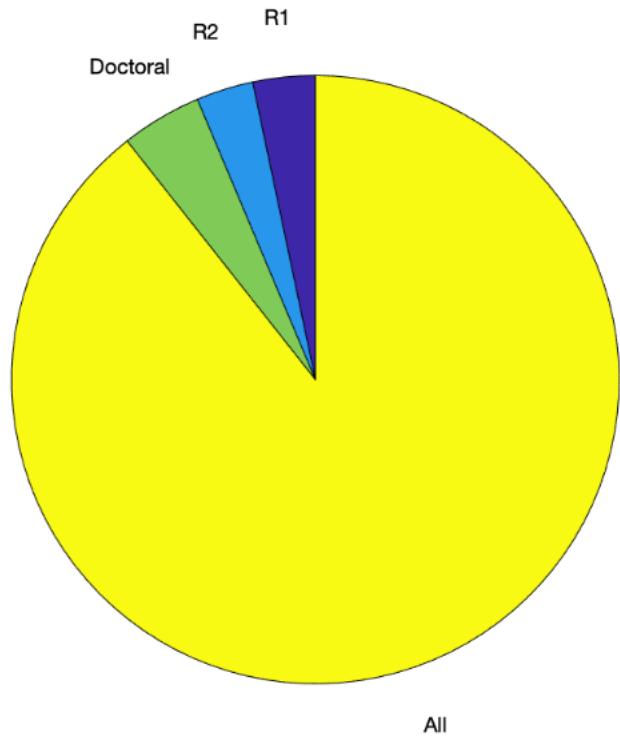
Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor

Feb. 20, 2024

# What is R1 status?

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- The Carnegie Classification is a national framework for categorizing U.S. doctoral universities into one of three categories
  - R1 is the very high research activity (4%)
  - R2 is high research activity (7%)
  - Doctoral/professional universities
- UAF has consistently ranked as R2 and is striving for R1
- Evaluation every ~3 years → Next evaluations released in 2025 & 2028 (based on FY24-FY26 data)



# R1 status benefits

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- Provides global recognition of research
  - Attracts globally competitive faculty, staff & students
  - Increases student enrollment
  - Enhances competitiveness for new funding opportunities
  - Economic benefits across the state



# R1 impacts at other universities

- The University of Colorado Boulder estimated R1 research activity produced \$1.2 billion in state economic activity
- Old Dominion University doubled research expenditures while pursuing R1
- The University of Maine saw all-time highs in enrollment and research expenditures while pursuing R1 status



# Updated Carnegie R1 metrics

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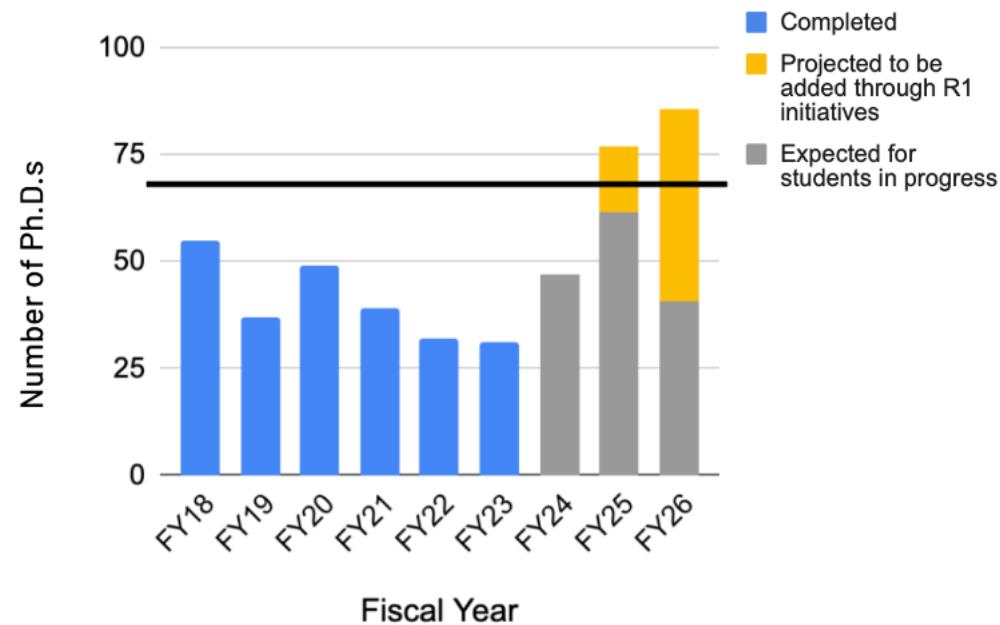
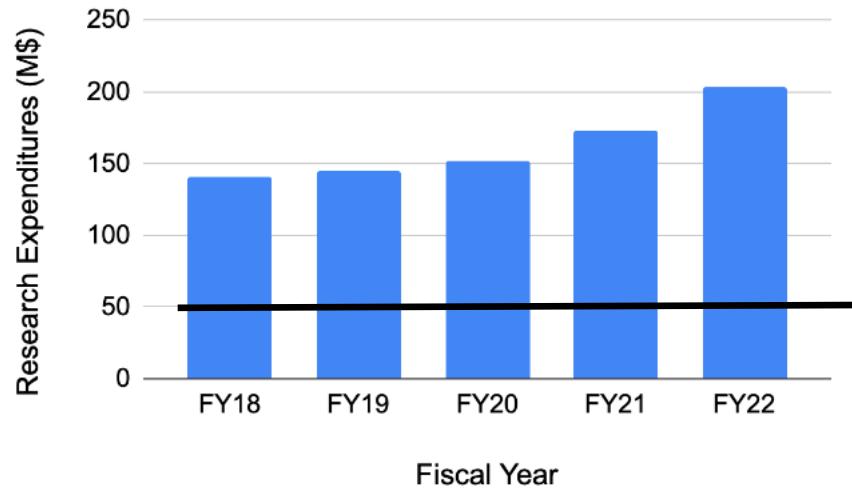


> \$50 million in  
research  
expenditures



> 70 Ph.D.s  
conferred per year  
(3-year rolling  
average)

# R1 status requires increasing Ph.D.s conferred

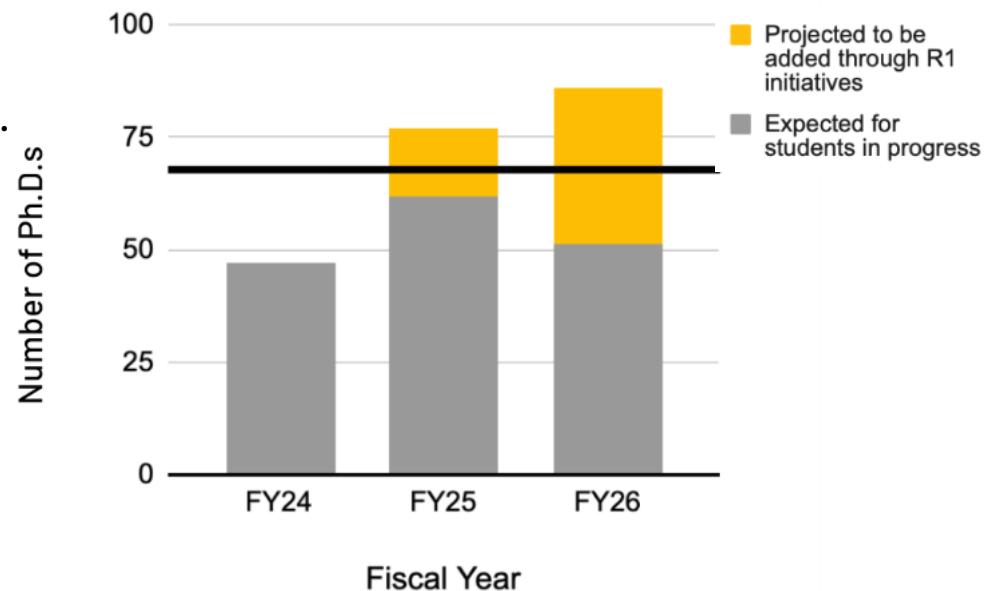


# Path to reaching R1 Ph.D. target

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Paths include:

- Provide financial support for Ph.D. students in need
- Reduce barriers for existing Ph.D. students
- Transitioning interested students from master to Ph.D. programs
- Accelerate Ph.D. completion where feasible



# Planning for R1 began in 2018

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## STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS 2019-2027

at a glance

- 1 Modernize the student experience
- 2 Establish global leadership in Alaska Native and Indigenous programs
- 3 Achieve Tier 1 research status
- 4 Transform UAF's intellectual property development and commercialization
- 5 Embrace and grow a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion and caring
- 6 Revitalize key academic programs, from occupational endorsements to Ph.D.s

## R1 groups and ongoing work:

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1. Track R1-relevant metrics for economic benefits to Alaska
2. Incentivize multidisciplinary research themes and networks
3. Strengthen Ph.D. programs
4. Expand competitive Ph.D. fellowships
5. Support faculty mentorship of early career researchers
6. Recruit and retain excellent faculty
7. Recruit competitive Ph.D. students and promote UAF research
8. Increase accessibility to UAF research
9. Provide resource support for R1 initiatives



# Steering committee members lead working groups



Top: Taryn Lopez

Bottom: Alex Hirsch

Jessica Black

Todd Brinkman

Sabine Siekmann

Nicole Misarti

Carl Tape

LaVerne Demientieff

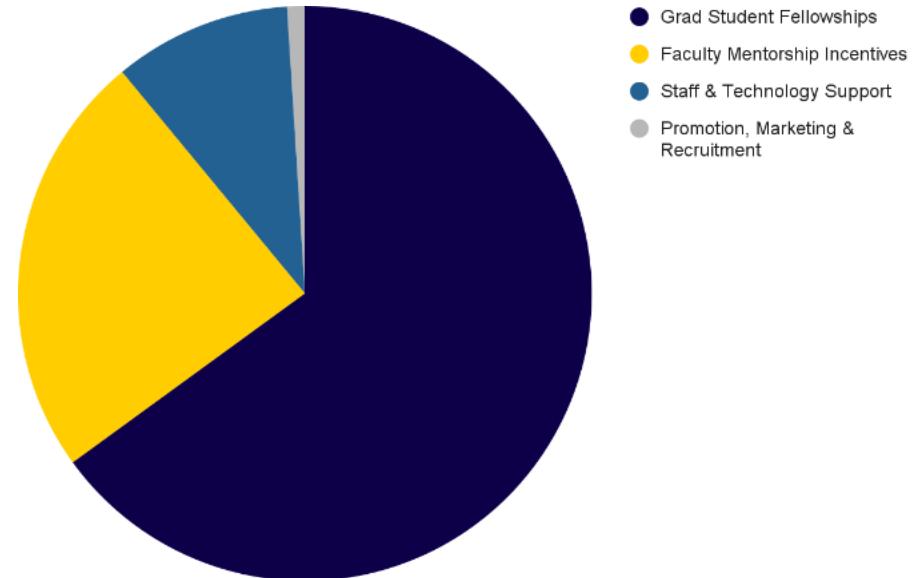
Darren Tan

Briana Walters

# \$20M requested to achieve R1 status

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- \$13 million in graduate student fellowships
- \$4.8 million in faculty mentorship incentives
- \$2 million in staff & technology support
- \$0.2 million for promotion, marketing & recruitment



# Ph.D. fellowships & faculty incentives will benefit Alaska

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## Examples

- Mitigating impacts of natural hazards
- Retaining and advancing Alaska Native languages and Indigenous ways of knowing
- Improving the health of Alaskans and our environment
- Enhancing Alaska's food security
- Developing energy solutions, infrastructure and technology advancements



# R1 prestige will make UAF more competitive

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- Development of thematic research networks will unite multidisciplinary research talent to develop innovative research to address issues important to Alaskans
- Enhanced reputation as an R1 leads to increased competitiveness for federal and private grant funding

# R1 helps entice and retain talent in Alaska

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- Increased opportunities attract more students
- College-age students more likely to stay in Alaska
- Contributes to Alaska's economic future



# Thank you for your support!

A photograph of three people standing on a dark, grassy hilltop. They are silhouetted against a bright, snowy mountain range. The person on the left has their arms raised in a 'V' shape. The person in the middle has their arms raised in a high-five. The person on the right has their right arm raised. The background consists of several snow-covered mountain peaks under a clear sky.