



Enabling an **Innovation-Led** Future for Arkansas

*University Research Competencies Aligned
with Industry Growth Opportunities.*



**Arkansas
Research
Alliance**

Discover the New Nexus of Research & Industry



The Push & Pull That Drives Arkansas Opportunity

University research can be at its best – maximizing its economic development impact – when it has an end-use in mind. Where it is inspired by and applied in the living laboratory of the real world – where companies innovate or die, where lives are saved or lost. Research is serious business. In Arkansas, research means business.

This is why ARA presents a new report, *Ensuring an Innovation-Led Future for Arkansas: University Research Competencies Aligned with Industry Growth Opportunities*.

Working with TEconomy Partners, a global leader in research, analysis, and strategy for innovation-driven economic development, the study examined the nexus between the “**technology push**” of our state’s research strengths and the “**market pull**” of our industrial and societal interests.

Using this information, ARA knows precisely where our best opportunities are for these forces to connect.

Technology Push



Academic Research Activity

- Cluster analysis of peer-reviewed publications
- Cluster analysis of major active grants



Research Excellence & Innovation Assets

- Key University Research Centers
- Other Major Research Assets



Research Investment Activity

- University R&D Spending
- State & Institutional Research Initiatives

Market Pull



Leading Industry Clusters

- Traded sector industry cluster profiles
- Leading companies



Industry Innovation Indicators

- Leading patent innovation activity
- Leading areas of venture capital investment
- Industry R&D spending and SIBR/STTR award

Arkansas’ technology push reflects areas of deep expertise, talent, and unique strengths that reside in our universities and only major federal lab. To uncover these, the ARA report analyzed more than 20,000 peer-reviewed publications, 500 major active grants totaling more than \$350 million in awards, and the presence of research centers.

Arkansas’ private-sector market pull for innovation, science- and technology-driven solutions is also strong. ARA’s report used several key indicators to determine which Arkansas industries outperform the national average and create new wealth for the state economy, including size, growth, and concentration of employment.

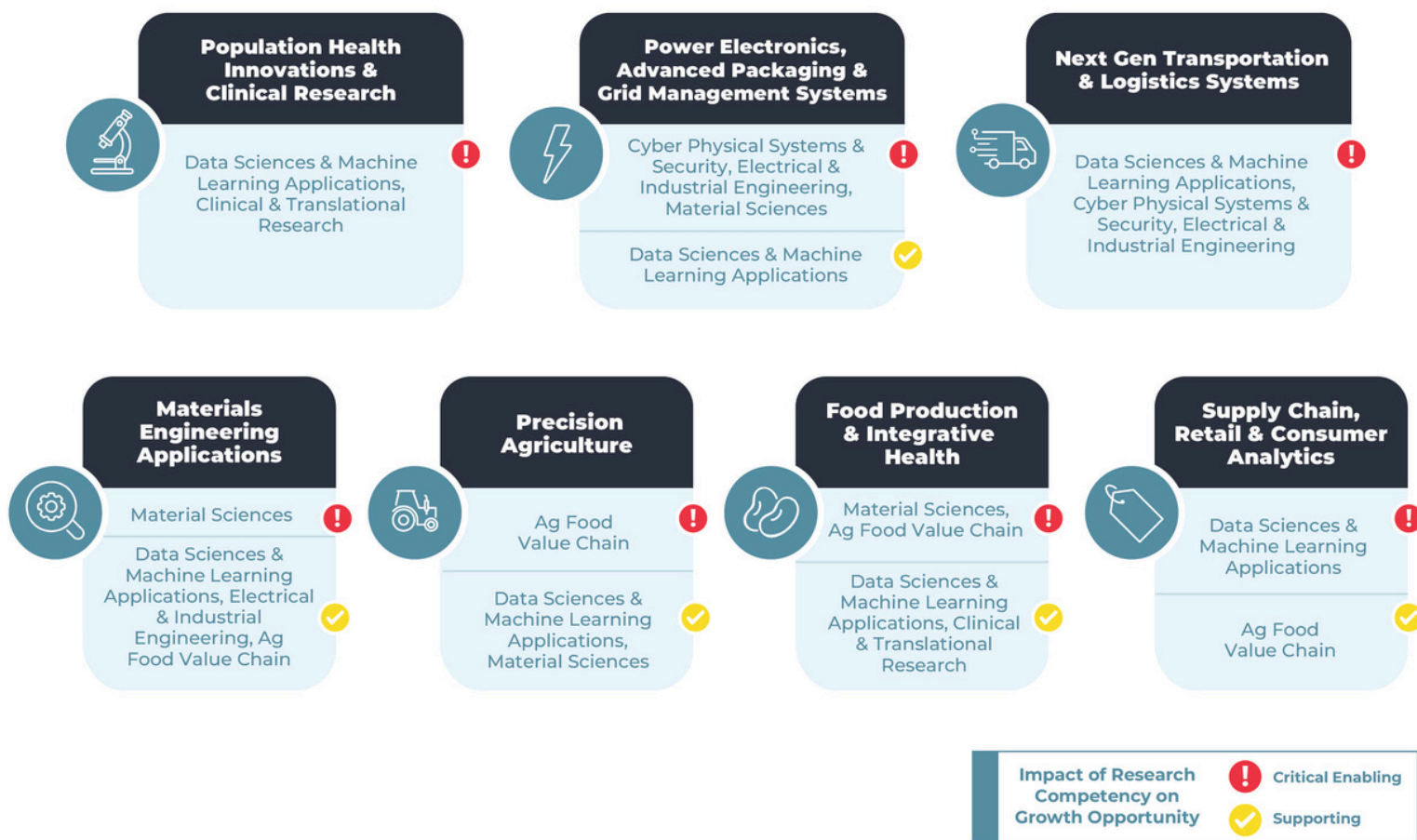


ARKANSAS' 7 GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

These are seven strategic areas that align Arkansas' research assets and expertise with our state's industry needs and innovation drivers.



ArkansasResearchAlliance



Research has an impact on **us** all

Our nation is driven by innovation, and Arkansas can have a leading role. The sweet spots where research and industry intersect are places Arkansas will thrive in the years to come.

Our hope is to satisfy the ever-present demand from industry for technology solutions and innovation. University research holds some of the keys that can enhance a company's ability to compete or enter new markets. ARA is investing in these growth opportunities to benefit Arkansans, whether in the form of meaningful jobs or new products and advancements that enrich and save lives.

What's required is a willingness to invest in collaboration and cooperation between private enterprise, government, and our state's remarkable research community. We need you. Your curiosity, time, and understanding to move Arkansas forward.

Please take a few moments to read *Ensuring an Innovation-Led Future for Arkansas*. Share it with friends and colleagues and join us at the nexus of this extraordinary opportunity.

The time is now. The place is here. Will you join us?

Download the Full Report



Bryan J. Barnhouse
President & CEO

Many leaders across Arkansas generously contributed their time and energy to this project. We are grateful to everyone who participated in the qualitative interviews to help inform, shape, and validate the findings. Our special thanks go to the members of the project advisory group, who helped guide, test, and strengthen our confidence in the innovation-led growth opportunities for Arkansas.

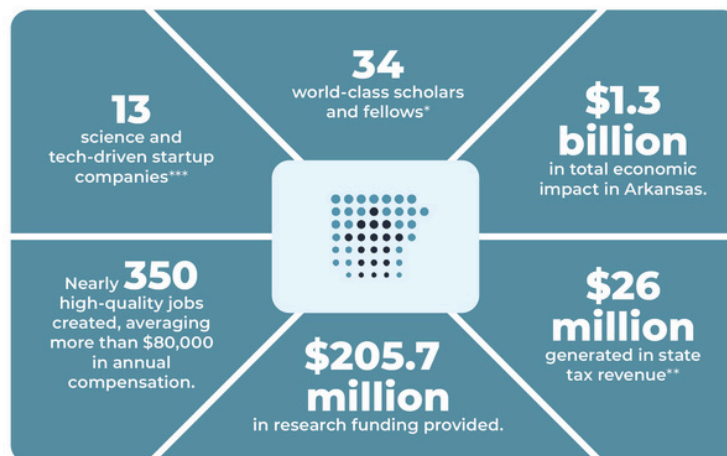
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RESEARCH MATTERS

In 2008, ARA was created to leverage university research to fuel innovation and economic growth.

The collaborative power of Arkansas universities, businesses, and government has produced job-creating research for a stronger knowledge-based economy in the state.

In that short span, ARA has proven that investments in scientific and engineering breakthroughs generate economic development impacts.



The Arkansas Research Alliance (ARA) is dedicated to elevating a fundamental belief: Research Matters. The state's leading research-focused economic development organization since 2008, ARA operates as a public-private partnership. We invest in the recruitment, retention and recognition of strategic research talent, and programs to stimulate innovation, encourage collaboration, and strengthen economic opportunity.