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WSU ranks No. 20 in US for engineering R&D funding

By Tracee Friess, National Institute for Aviation Research



For fiscal year 2021, Wichita State reported total R&D expenditures of \$192 million – up from \$154 million in 2020. Wichita State has moved up one spot to third in total aerospace R&D expenditures, with \$153 million; and maintained its rank as first in industry-funded aerospace R&D, with a total of \$75 million.

Wichita State University has moved into the list of the top 20 universities in engineering research and development (R&D) expenditures, according to the latest data compiled by the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development Survey.

NSF's latest data ranks U.S. universities in various categories, including R&D spending broken down by subfield and funding source.

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“Research is at the heart of Wichita State’s mission and vision. It drives innovation, advances knowledge, and helps solve complex problems facing our society,” said Dr. Rick Muma, president of Wichita State. “As Kansas’ only urban public research university, this ranking is an honor, but it is not a surprise. And it sends a signal to the rest of the country that Wichita State is a powerful presence in the research arena, particularly in engineering.”

In recent years, the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State has increased its relationship with various divisions of the Department of Defense, which has led to a fifth-place listing in federally funded aerospace R&D expenditures with \$63 million.

These rankings put Wichita State among other prestigious engineering universities such as the Georgia Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Purdue and Stanford.

With increasing contracts and awards from industry and federal agencies, Wichita State expects to continue climbing the ranks in the NSF's survey. The 2022 numbers will be compiled by NSF and published in late 2023.