

Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED)

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB)

FY 2025-2026 Annual Report



Office of Research and Economic Development

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Executive Summary

As a comprehensive public university with Carnegie Research 2 (R2) status, California State University, Long Beach integrates research, scholarly and creative activity, innovation, and externally supported programs with its educational mission. CSULB's research enterprise is also a student success enterprise. Faculty scholarship and externally funded activity create opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to participate directly in discovery, problem solving, entrepreneurship, and innovation. These experiences strengthen pathways to graduate education, professional careers, and the high-skill workforce.

During FY 2025-26, this research and student-success enterprise demonstrated resilience despite a difficult and rapidly changing external funding environment. A total of 169 faculty, staff, and administrators submitted 257 proposals requesting \$115.8 million. Although proposal submissions declined 4% from the prior year, requested funding increased 4%, signaling continued ambition and demand for externally supported research and programs across the University.

Funding outcomes reflected significant external headwinds. Seventy-four principal investigators secured 115 new awards totaling \$35.86 million, representing declines of 26% in the number of awards and 27% in award value. Total sponsored-program expenditures were \$44.3 million, including \$38.72 million in direct expenditures and \$5.54 million in facilities and administrative (F&A) revenue. The effective F&A rate was 14.3%.

2025-2026 Snapshot

257 Proposals	\$115.8M Requested	115 New awards	\$35.86M Award value	\$44.3M Total expenditures
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Despite these pressures, CSULB continued investing in the people, systems, and opportunities that sustain research and student success. Internal research support across major programs totaled approximately \$2.27 million, including \$1.70 million in RSCA support benefiting 276 faculty, \$192,750 for Mini-Grants and Summer Stipends supporting 40 faculty, \$105,000 for Multidisciplinary Grants supporting 17 faculty, \$98,000 for Summer Student Research Assistantships supporting 16 students, \$150,000 for Faculty Research Awards in Inclusive Excellence supporting 14 faculty, and approximately \$21,600 for open-access publishing. ORED also provided grant-development assistance to more than 150 faculty and delivered 11 professional-development opportunities.

Research integrity and compliance remained a core institutional capability. The Institutional Review Board reviewed 619 submissions, including 333 new projects; 178 of those new projects were submitted by students. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee managed 35 active protocols, ORED delivered 17 Responsible Conduct of Research workshops, federal assurances were renewed, CSULB continued its participation in the CSU research-security audit process.

The connection between research, student success, and innovation was especially visible in undergraduate research and research translation. The OURS Research Certificate Program engaged 226 students; 108 students participated in the Student Research Competition, 10 advanced to the statewide CSU competition, and one CSULB student earned first place. CSULB also filed three provisional patent applications arising from faculty-and-student research teams and advanced commercialization, entrepreneurship, industry, and regional innovation activities.

Taken together, FY 2025-26 reflects an increasingly integrated research ecosystem in which faculty scholarship, student success, innovation, workforce development, and regional impact reinforce one another. The strategic

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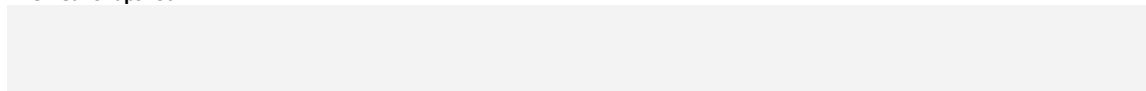
priority for FY 2026-27 is to convert a resilient proposal pipeline into stronger funding outcomes while protecting the research infrastructure, compliance capacity, student opportunities, and partnerships that sustain CSULB's R2 mission.

1. Research Enterprise at a Glance

1.1 Five-Year Research Performance: FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26

A five-year perspective provides a more useful measure of the scale and durability of CSULB's research enterprise than any single fiscal year. Across FY 2021-22 through FY 2025-26, the University submitted 1,414 proposals with a combined value of \$589.8 million, received 787 awards totaling \$238.9 million, and generated \$224.5 million in total sponsored-program expenditures. On an annual-average basis, this represents approximately 283 proposals, \$118.0 million in proposal activity, 157 awards, \$47.8 million in new awards, and \$44.9 million in expenditures.

Five-Year Snapshot



Five-Year New Award Value

New award value varied considerably across the period: \$65.8 million in FY22, \$48.5 million in FY23, \$39.4 million in FY24, \$49.5 million in FY25, and \$35.9 million in FY26. The five-year average was \$47.8 million per year.

Annual New Award Values

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
\$65.8M	\$48.5M	\$39.4M	\$49.5M	\$35.9M

Five-Year Total Sponsored Program Expenditures

Total sponsored program expenditures increased from approximately \$33.6 million in FY22 to a five-year high of approximately \$55.0 million in FY24, followed by \$51.6 million in FY25 and \$44.3 million in FY26. Across the five-year period, total expenditures reached approximately \$224.5 million, averaging \$44.9 million annually.

Annual Total Sponsored-Program Expenditures

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
\$33.6M	\$39.4M	\$55.2M	\$51.6M	\$44.3M

FY 2025-26 reflects a broader five-year pattern of strong and sustained research activity, with expected year-to-year variation in awards and expenditures.

1.2 Proposal Activity and External Awards

A total of 169 faculty, staff, and administrators submitted 257 new proposals requesting nearly \$115.8 million. The 4% decline in proposal count was offset by a 4% increase in requested funding. This combination suggests that,

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even in a difficult external environment, the University's research community continued to pursue ambitious sponsored projects.

Division/College	2025-26 Total New Proposals Submitted	2025-26 Total New Research Funds Requested	2024-25 Total New Proposals Submitted	2024-25 Total New Research Funds Requested	Total Proposals Submitted (% Change)	Total Research Funds Requested (% Change)
COB	2	\$ 27,000	3	\$ 57,000	-33	-53
CPaCE/CITT	8	\$ 3,398,247	9	\$ 4,275,737	-11	-21
CED	10	\$ 12,472,593	5	\$ 1,877,119	100	564
CHHS	39	\$ 24,072,675	47	\$ 24,050,399	-17	<1
CLA	40	\$ 5,176,020	42	\$ 11,544,191	-5	-55
CNSM	53	\$ 23,546,838	53	\$ 20,207,296	0	17
COE	85	\$ 26,375,516	81	\$ 29,225,547	5	-10
COTA	2	\$ 65,493	8	\$ 203,000	-75	-68
Other Units (Pres, AA, SS, URD)	18	\$ 20,714,035	19	\$ 20,131,115	-5	3
TOTAL	257	\$ 115,848,417	267	\$ 111,571,404	-4	4

CSULB received 115 new external awards totaling \$35,863,028. Awards included 41 federal, 38 state, 12 local-agency, and 28 private corporation/foundation awards. The College of Engineering received 28 awards totaling \$7.02 million; the College of Health and Human Services received 25 awards totaling \$14.16 million; and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics received 21 awards totaling \$4.18 million. Other colleges and administrative units also contributed materially to the University's sponsored-program portfolio.

Division/College	2025-26 Total New Proposals Awarded	2025-26 Total New Research Funds Awarded	2024-25 Total New Proposals Awarded	2024-25 Total New Research Funds Awarded	Total Proposals Awarded (% Change)	Total Research Funds Awarded (% Change)
COB	2	\$ 27,000	2	\$ 27,000	0	-0
CPaCE/CITT	6	\$ 2,049,852	8	\$ 948,175	-25	116
CED	3	\$ 2,422,040	6	\$ 847,653	-50	186
CHHS	25	\$ 14,155,676	44	\$ 21,799,037	-43	-35
CLA	15	\$ 2,683,102	19	\$ 2,396,307	-21	12
CNSM	21	\$ 4,177,121	30	\$ 12,511,304	-30	-67
COE	28	\$ 7,024,270	33	\$ 9,180,688	-15	-23
COTA	5	\$ 48,993	4	\$ 26,408	25	86
Other Units (Pres, AA, SS, URD, AF, IT)	10	\$ 3,274,974	10	\$ 1,720,033	0	90
TOTAL	115	\$ 35,863,028	156	\$ 49,456,606	-26	-27

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1.3 Research Expenditures and F&A

Sponsored-program activity generated \$44.3 million in total expenditures: \$38.72 million in direct expenditures and \$5.54 million in F&A revenue. These figures represent decreases of approximately 14%, 15%, and 11%, respectively, from the prior year. The FY 2025-26 effective F&A rate was 14.3%.

Division/ College	2025-26 Research Expenditures	2025-26 F&A Revenue	2024-25 Research Expenditures	2024-25 F&A Revenue	Total Research Expenditures (% Change)	Total F&A Revenue (% Change)
COB	\$ 16,588.14	\$ 2,786.00	\$ 17,554.26	\$ 4,866.28	-5.50	-42.75
CPaCE/CITT	\$ 851,568.37	\$ 323,256.80	\$ 707,067.45	\$ 252,426.16	20.44	28.06
CED	\$ 2,464,708.55	\$ 323,664.60	\$ 3,033,931.76	\$ 372,163.46	-18.76	-13.03
CHHS	\$ 13,904,961.40	\$ 1,377,864.95	\$ 16,306,050.25	\$ 1,587,115.13	-14.73	-13.18
CLA	\$ 1,496,845.86	\$ 303,692.41	\$ 2,334,549.06	\$ 421,706.64	-35.88	-27.98
CNSM	\$ 8,810,127.67	\$ 1,947,681.53	\$ 8,088,641.45	\$ 1,682,147.70	8.92	15.79
COE	\$ 4,092,250.57	\$ 753,617.37	\$ 5,698,002.48	\$ 856,655.98	-28.18	-12.03
COTA	\$ 29,441.79	\$ 0	\$ 37,124.07	\$ 3,355.22	-20.69	-100.00
Other Units (Pres, AA, SS, URD, AF, IT)	\$ 7,053,383.90	\$ 512,090.37	\$ 9,165,551.25	\$ 1,073,977.40	-23.04	-52.32
TOTAL	\$ 38,719,876.25	\$ 5,544,654.03	\$ 45,388,472.03	\$ 6,254,413.97	-14.69	-11.35

2. Investing in Faculty Research and Competitiveness

CSULB continued to make significant institutional investments in faculty research, scholarly and creative activity, student research, multidisciplinary collaboration, inclusive excellence, and open-access dissemination. Across the major internal programs reported for FY 2025-26, approximately \$2.27 million was invested to strengthen the research enterprise and support faculty and student success. These investments provided direct research and creative activity support to hundreds of faculty across the university.

\$1.70M 276 Faculty RSCA	\$192.75K 40 Faculty MGSS	\$105K 17 Faculty Multidisciplinary	\$98K 16 Students Student Research	\$150K 14 Faculty FRA-IE
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2.1 Internal Research Investments

These investments supported faculty and students across multiple stages of the research and creative activity continuum:

- Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (RSCA) \$1.70 million with 276 faculty supported. The university's largest internal research investment provides faculty with assigned time and other support to advance research, scholarly, and creative activity across disciplines.
- Mini-Grants and Summer Stipends (MGSS) \$192,750 with 40 faculty supported. These awards provide targeted support for faculty research and creative projects through mini-grants and summer stipends, helping faculty initiate, advance, and complete scholarly and creative work.

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- Multidisciplinary Research Grants \$105,000 with 17 faculty supported. These grants support collaborative research that brings together faculty expertise across disciplines, encourages new research partnerships, and helps position teams for larger-scale projects and external funding opportunities.
- Summer Student Research Program \$98,000 with 16 students supported. This program provides students with opportunities to participate directly in faculty-mentored research and creative activity during the summer, strengthening student engagement and research experience.
- Faculty Research Awards for Inclusive Excellence (FRA-IE) \$150,000 with 14 faculty supported. These awards support faculty research, scholarly, and creative activity that advances inclusive excellence and related institutional priorities.

In addition, approximately \$21,600 supported open-access publishing, expanding access to CSULB scholarship and increasing the visibility and reach of faculty research and creative activity.

2.2 Grant Development

ORED's grant-development function supports investigators from early project development through proposal submission. During FY 2025-26, more than 150 faculty and staff received grant consultations, solicitation analyses, proposal-development guidance, training, and narrative feedback. Eleven professional-development opportunities were delivered, and ORED expanded funding-discovery capacity through GrantPuma and continued use and training for the SPIN funding database.

This work is strategically important in the current funding environment. A strong proposal pipeline is necessary but not sufficient; CSULB must continue increasing competitiveness through earlier engagement with investigators, stronger project positioning, internal peer review, sponsor-specific guidance, and deeper relationships with funding agencies and external partners.

2.3 Selected Grant-Development Activities

- New Faculty Foundations Orientation introduced new faculty to ORED's roles, services, resources, and collaborative approach to supporting research and externally funded activities.
- College of Education outreach included a faculty mixer presentation on ORED resources and funding tools and a writing retreat focused on sponsor alignment, proposal narratives, and external competitiveness.
- The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Writing Retreat addressed practical grant-writing strategies in a shifting federal funding landscape.
- The ORED Webinar Series highlighted Grant Development, use of AI in proposal writing, Pre-Award, Post-Award, and Institutional Review Board services and resources.
- The campus rollout of GrantPuma, an AI-supported funding-discovery platform, included three online training sessions to help faculty identify opportunities aligned with their research interests and expertise.

3. Research as Student Success

At CSULB, research infrastructure is educational infrastructure. Research participation allows students to apply classroom learning, develop technical and professional skills, build relationships with faculty mentors, prepare for graduate study and careers, and participate in innovation and entrepreneurship. The University's research enterprise therefore advances student success not only through funded projects, but also through the systems and programs that make meaningful research participation possible.

226 OURS participants	108 SRC participants	10 Statewide presenters	1st Statewide winner	178 Student-led new IRBs
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3.1 Office of Undergraduate Research Services

The Office of Undergraduate Research Services (OURS) continued to provide structured pathways into research. In AY 2025-26, 226 students participated in the OURS Research Certificate Program, which complements faculty-led and externally funded research experiences. OURS also maintained a Faculty Mentor Directory, coordinated research information sessions, and supported the annual Student Research Competition.

The 2026 Student Research Competition drew 108 participants. Ten CSULB students advanced to the statewide CSU competition, where a CSULB student earned first place in Biological and Agricultural Sciences. These outcomes demonstrate both the breadth of student participation and the quality of student scholarship.

3.2 Building and Sustaining Undergraduate Research Pathways

The Faculty Mentor Directory is a searchable campus-wide resource connecting students with faculty who actively engage undergraduates in research. It is shared with deans, associate deans, and new faculty through collaboration with the Faculty Center.

Following the conclusion of BUILD funding on June 30, 2025, signature undergraduate-research practices are being institutionalized through OURS. The Research Certificate provides a structured curriculum that complements externally funded and faculty-led research while minimizing impact on time to degree. Together with research information sessions, the Student Research Competition, and faculty-mentor connections, these activities sustain a broad campus pathway into research.

3.3 Week of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (RSCA)

The annual Week of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (RSCA) serves as a campus-wide celebration of research, scholarship, creative activity, innovation, and mentorship. It increases the visibility of faculty and student accomplishments and provides an important point of connection across research development, student engagement, and innovation. During FY 2025-26, ORED and Innovation and Economic Development further strengthened this platform by integrating the Faculty Principal Investigator Reception and the Sunstone Innovation Challenge into Week of RSCA. This integration reinforces the report's central theme: research at CSULB is not only an indicator of scholarly productivity, but also a vehicle for student success, mentorship, innovation, and institutional community.

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3.4 Student Research Across the Enterprise

Student engagement is also visible in ORED's compliance and innovation activity. Of 333 new IRB projects reviewed during AY 2025-26, 178 were student submissions, more than half of all new human-subjects projects. Provisional patent activity likewise included faculty-and-student research teams, demonstrating a pathway from mentored research and student theses to potential technology translation.

4. Research Integrity and Institutional Capacity

A growing R2 research enterprise depends on reliable, responsive, and rigorous compliance infrastructure. ORED supports human-subjects research, animal care and use, biosafety, responsible conduct of research, financial conflicts of interest, export controls, research security, material and data agreements, and research-misconduct processes.

4.1 Human Subjects Research

The Institutional Review Board reviewed 619 submissions in AY 2025-26, including 333 new protocols, 180 amendments, 55 annual check-ins or continuing reviews, 50 responses or follow-ups, and one closure. The IRB renewed its federal registration through November 2028 and continued work to streamline collaborative reviews, forms, templates, workshops, and investigator support.

4.2 Animal Care and Use

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee managed 35 active protocols and completed required protocol reviews, facility inspections, and programmatic reviews. CSULB renewed its NIH/OLAW Animal Welfare Assurance through December 2029, maintained veterinary oversight, and continued to support inter-institutional research collaborations.

4.3 Responsible Conduct and Research Security

ORED delivered 17 campus-wide Responsible Conduct of Research workshops and completed research-compliance reviews for approximately 353 new grant and contract proposals, including review of RCR training, financial conflict-of-interest disclosures, human and animal subjects requirements, and export-control considerations. CSULB continued to work through the CSU Office of the Chancellor Research Security Audit process, including responding to audit recommendations and implementing corrective actions.

4.4 Additional Research Compliance and Institutional Capacity Activities

Beyond protocol review and training, ORED maintained the broader regulatory and institutional infrastructure required for responsible research. Approximately 353 new grant and contract proposals received compliance review covering RCR training, financial conflict-of-interest disclosures, human and animal subjects requirements, and export controls.

- Required annual reports were submitted to federal agencies for research misconduct/RCR, IRB, IBC, and IACUC oversight.

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- CSULB received CSU Office of the Chancellor Research Security Audit Report 25-73 on June 1, 2026, and continued working through the audit process, including implementation of corrective actions in response to the recommendations.
- Research Compliance staff participated in professional development, including the CITI Program webinar on cybersecurity in academic research, the AALAS National Meeting, and the 2026 CSU IRB Forum.
- ORED reviewed seven Material Transfer Agreements and one Non-disclosure/Data Sharing Agreement supporting inter-institutional collaboration.
- ORED collected and reviewed annual reports from 20 Academic Centers and Institutes (ACIs), collaborated with the Academic Senate on eight fifth-year extension reviews, updated the ORED website to reflect 30 current ACIs including three newly established ACIs, and prepared the AY 2025-26 campus centers and institutes report for the CSU Office of the Chancellor.

5. From Research to Innovation and Economic Impact

ORED's innovation and economic-development activities connect research to technology translation, entrepreneurship, industry engagement, and regional workforce and economic priorities. This work extends the impact of faculty and student research beyond publication and creates additional pathways for experiential learning, partnership, and public benefit.

- Three provisional patent applications were filed on behalf of faculty-and-student research teams.
- CSULB advanced NSF Accelerating Research Translation activities, including ALBERT and the SHINE partnership with UCLA.
- The Faculty Principal Investigator Reception and Sunstone Innovation Challenge were integrated into the annual Week of RSCA, connecting faculty recognition, student innovation, and research translation within a broader campus-wide celebration of scholarship.
- A second faculty-and-student team completed a regional NSF I-Corps program.
- ORED supported an STTR/SBIR proposal involving a faculty member and small-business partner.
- A faculty-led startup was selected for an academic venture showcase alongside university spinouts from major research institutions.
- Data Con LA expanded from approximately 500 participants to more than 800, strengthening CSULB's visibility in data science, AI, industry, and workforce development.
- Innovation and economic-development activity also included downtown Long Beach engagement, BizCare partnerships, and participation in regional economic and workforce initiatives.

These activities support a broader institutional objective: connecting discovery to application. Research translation, entrepreneurship, and external partnerships can expand student opportunities, diversify funding sources, deepen regional relationships, and increase the societal and economic impact of CSULB scholarship.

5.1 Research Translation and Commercialization

CSULB Innovation and Economic Development partnered with the UCLA Technology Development Group on an NSF Accelerating Research Translation (ART) Track 3 proposal to establish the SoCal Hub for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SHINE), and collaborated with ORED and the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship on an NSF ART Track 1 proposal for the Accelerating Long Beach Ecosystem for Research Translation (ALBERT) initiative.

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These efforts complement CSULB's early-stage intellectual-property support. Three provisional patent applications were filed for faculty-and-student research teams based on findings presented in research publications and student theses. A second faculty-and-student team completed a regional I-Corps program, and ORED assisted a faculty member and small-business partner with an STTR/SBIR proposal for the U.S. Navy.

ORED also supported a faculty-led startup translating university research into a commercial venture. The startup was selected for the Spring 2026 Venturium Academic Venture Showcase, providing exposure to investors and prospective partners alongside university spinouts from major research institutions.

5.2 Industry and Regional Engagement

CSULB collaborated with colleges, administrative units, and Data Con LA organizers to establish and host an inaugural industry-engagement reception. The event connected faculty with industry speakers and potential collaborators, while coordinated campus engagement contributed to conference registration growth from approximately 500 to more than 800 participants.

Work with external stakeholders on a Downtown Long Beach Design and Innovation District enabled faculty and students to conduct workshops and relocate a design research lab into previously vacant downtown storefronts. The initiative expanded opportunities to exhibit work and participate in downtown events and contributed to a Beach 2030 award.

Through the City of Long Beach Economic Development Department's BizCare Business Support Partnerships, CSULB promoted university expertise, equipment, facilities, training, programming, and capabilities in contracts, grants, and intellectual-property administration as resources for small businesses and startups.

ORED also presented "The Role of Research and Innovation in Economic and Workforce Development" to the CSULB President's Commission on Economic and Workforce Development, emphasizing research and innovation as bridges to industry collaboration, workforce development, and regional economic impact.

6. Navigating a Changing Federal and Financial Environment

FY 2025-26 unfolded amid significant uncertainty in the federal research environment. Between January 2025 and August 2026, 34 grants were terminated, leaving approximately \$6.6 million in unspent balances, including nearly \$2 million in anticipated F&A revenue. These disruptions affect more than institutional finances: they can interrupt faculty research, student employment and training, community programs, and multi-year partnerships.

Proposed revisions to federal Uniform Guidance could also increase administrative workload by an estimated 25%, alter allowable-cost and award-management practices, create uncertainty for active projects, and place disproportionate burdens on institutions and smaller community partners. CSULB submitted formal comments to the Office of Management and Budget advocating for objective peer review, reasonable and predictable cost-recovery practices, due process, prospective implementation of major changes, and adequate implementation time.

The complete federal comment letter is intentionally not reproduced as an appendix to this annual report. The annual report instead focuses on the strategic implications for CSULB and the actions taken to protect the University's research and student-success mission.

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7. Looking Ahead: FY 2026-27 Priorities

The coming year provides an opportunity to build on CSULB's resilient proposal pipeline while responding to a more competitive and uncertain external environment. ORED will focus on five interconnected priorities:

Compete: Strengthen early-stage project consultation, targeted funding searches, proposal-writing cohorts, internal peer review, sponsor-specific training, and strategic engagement with funding-agency representatives.

Engage: Expand opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to participate in research, scholarly and creative activity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, while continuing to use Week of RSCA as a visible campus-wide platform for celebrating research, mentorship, and student achievement.

Translate: Grow pathways from faculty-and-student research to intellectual property, commercialization, startups, industry partnerships, and regional economic and workforce impact.

Protect: Maintain robust research compliance, research-security, responsible-conduct, and stewardship systems while reducing unnecessary administrative burden.

Sustain: Review financial, staffing, technology, facilities, and administrative models needed to support a growing and resilient R2 research enterprise.

8. Conclusion

FY 2025-26 demonstrated both the strength and the vulnerability of CSULB's research enterprise. Faculty and staff continued to pursue ambitious externally supported work; students participated in research at meaningful scale; ORED strengthened proposal development, compliance, innovation, and undergraduate research services; and the University maintained an active pipeline of research translation and regional engagement. At the same time, declining award outcomes, federal policy volatility, and financial pressures underscore the need for continued strategic investment and institutional alignment.

CSULB's research enterprise is also a student success enterprise. Investments in faculty scholarship, sponsored programs, compliance, undergraduate research, innovation, and partnerships are investments in student learning, workforce preparation, institutional reputation, and regional impact. ORED enters FY 2026-27 focused on strengthening that integrated enterprise and positioning CSULB for sustained research excellence.

Acknowledgements

The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect the collective efforts of faculty, staff, students, and partners across California State University, Long Beach who contribute to the University's research, scholarly and creative activity, and innovation enterprise.

Special acknowledgment goes to the dedicated staff of the Office of Research and Economic Development and the Research Foundation, whose expertise, collaboration, and commitment support this work every day. From advancing sponsored research and ensuring research integrity and compliance to supporting faculty and student scholarship, their contributions are essential to the strength and continued growth of CSULB's research enterprise. Their collective efforts make the accomplishments reflected throughout this report possible.

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