

News Release
For Immediate Use
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Iowa State University Joins Engagement Scholarship Consortium

AMES, Iowa – Iowa State University (ISU) has joined the Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC), an international organization consisting of state/public and private higher education institutions with a broad scholarly agenda to advance university-community efforts.

Iowa State University became the nation's first land-grant institution when the Iowa General Assembly awarded it the state's land-grant charter in 1864. Iowa State pioneered the nation's first extension service and remains a leader in realizing the promise of the land-grant vision.

Iowa State University is a comprehensive research university of international stature with more than 33,000 students from 50 states, and 106 countries. Iowa State University offers approximately 100 undergraduate degree programs and nearly 200 fields of study leading to graduate and professional degrees. The university has earned the prestigious Carnegie Foundation classification for high research activity and the foundation's community engagement classification.

Cathann Kress, Vice President for Extension and Outreach, will serve as Iowa State University's ESC institutional representative.

"Iowa State University is a welcome addition to the Engagement Scholarship Consortium," said Hiram E. Fitzgerald, ESC president and associate provost for university outreach and engagement at Michigan State University. "ISU's vision of faculty and student engagement adds to our collective efforts to promote and advance successful engagement scholarship initiatives in higher education."

The ESC is composed of universities that work collaboratively to promote strong university-community partnerships that are anchored in the rigor of scholarship and designed to help build community capacity. The Consortium, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit educational organization, actively seeks membership to include state/public and private higher education institutions from across the U.S., Canada, and the world.

"Consortium membership supports Iowa State's efforts to expand the vision of outreach and engagement to one that more fully values engagement scholarship and reciprocal relationships with communities," said Iowa State University president Steven Leath. "We have extraordinary opportunities to capitalize on the land-grant mission by placing value on scholarly relationships between the university and communities to improve quality of life and address complex issues."

ESC member institutions collaborate in the development and delivery of programs and educational resources that support the creation and advancement of knowledge underlying successful engagement scholarship initiatives in higher education.

A six-member Iowa State University delegation participated in the ESC annual meeting at Texas Tech University Oct. 8-9.