Boise State’s research mission continued to advance in fiscal year 2009. A total of 268 projects garnered a university record $37 million in funding, easily eclipsing the previous highpoint of $28 million last year. Since 2000, the total amount of Boise State’s research funding has doubled.

President Bob Kustra reported the news at his annual State of the University address, noting that Boise State’s research program is the fastest growing in Idaho. “The significant increase in support of our research is a clear indicator of our growing momentum and stature as a metropolitan research university of distinction,” Kustra says. “Our expanding research portfolio drives economic development, attracts top-notch faculty and provides our students with tremendous opportunities to pursue creative activities that strengthen their education.”

Five of the grants awarded in fiscal year 2009 exceeded $1 million, and the average award was $138,330. More than 100 entities provided funding, including federal, state and local agencies, private industry, other universities and not-for-profit organizations.

“Research conducted by Boise State faculty and students addresses some of the major health, environmental, technological and social issues of the day,” says Mark Rudin, vice president for research. “Our researchers not only are providing innovative solutions to vexing problems, they also are improving quality of life, strengthening business and providing inspiration.”

The first quarter of fiscal year 2010 set another university record. With $16.1 million in external grant awards, it is the highest quarterly total in school history. The figure marked a 77 percent increase from the previous year’s $9.1 million quarterly total and includes $4.6 million through 12 National Science Foundation grants.

“Last year’s momentum has not been slowed by the economy,” Rudin said. “Instead, research is being viewed as a vehicle to jump-start the economy and keep our businesses moving forward through the development of new products and creative solutions.”

For more about Boise State research, visit www.boisestate.edu/research/.

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Social media is not just for the younger generation. Alumni, faculty, staff and students have been coming on board as members of Boise State’s Facebook, Twitter and YouTube sites.

Boise State started using social media last spring as one more way for friends of the university to hear about breaking news and events on campus.

Many parents, including Kimarie Johnson, mother of a current Boise State student from Seattle, Wash., are following Boise State’s social networks to keep abreast of university life.

“I like to be connected to my daughter at Boise State,” Johnson says.

Alumni also are finding connections through the university’s social networks.

“As an alumnus, I like to hear current information on what’s going on at Boise State. And it’s fun to read comments from other Bronco fans,” says Diana Echeverria Coba (BBA business economics, ’86, MA, interdisciplinary studies, ’04).

An easy way to connect with Boise State’s social networks is to visit the university’s Web site at www.boisestate.edu and click on the social media icons at the bottom.

In addition to Boise State’s main social networking sites, the Bronco Alumni Association has Facebook and Twitter sites for alumni connections. To connect to these sites, visit the Alumni Association Web site at http://alumni.boisestate.edu/ and click on the social media icons at the top of the page.