

FY26 Office of Research Annual Report

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SUMMARY

This 5th-annual CBE Office of Research (CBE-OR) report aims to highlight FY26 (July 2025-June 2026) productivity, outcomes, and impacts; and the efforts of the CBE-OR to support this work.

FY26 awards that funded research-related activities totaled \$4,444,820. Categories of funding awards received in FY26 include Grants and Contracts (\$3,041,264), UW Internal Funding (non-CBE) (\$154,670), CBE Internal Funding (\$35,500), Gifts in support of research (\$376,128), and Service Agreements (\$837,258). In FY26 through the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), CBE researchers submitted a total of 46 proposals (as PI or Co-PI), with 15 grants and contracts awarded to CBE PIs and Co-PIs.

In FY26, CBE researchers published over 31 publications, which are listed on the research portal, including journal articles, books, and book chapters collectively. We published ten news stories on the CBE research portal website, celebrating CBE research activities.

CBE-OR's Strategic Action Plan (Figure 1) is based on the understanding of CBE's research needs and our goals of supporting, connecting, elevating, and accelerating research. We also used four "lenses" across our work plan: cross-boundary scholarship; supporting student research; equity, diversity, and inclusion; and continual improvement. We organized the work into 9 interrelated areas of focus, each of which we planned to include a number of activities. This work plan guided our activities for the year and is detailed in the sections under "2. CBE-OR efforts." Table 1 depicts an overview of CBE-OR activities in FY26.

Figure 1: CBE Office of Research Strategic Action Plan 2025-2026

CBE Office of Research Strategic Action Plan for 2025-26

We work in partnership with CBE's Finance and Administration Office; Advancement team; college, department, and center leadership; and the CBE research community.

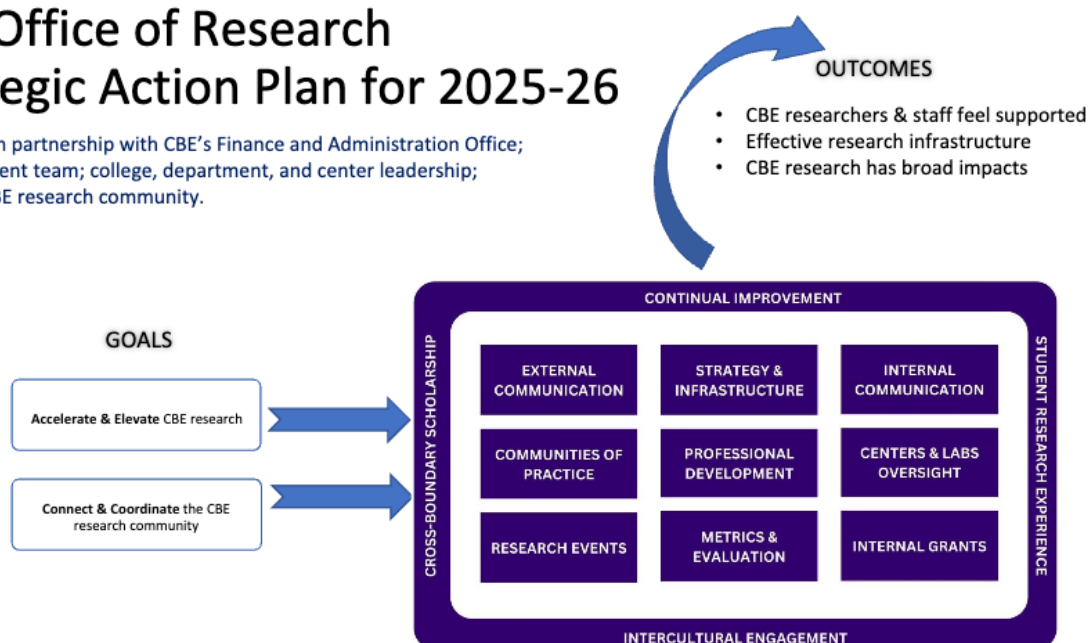


Table 1: Overview of activities supported by the CBE Office of Research

Academic quarterly activities
Autumn 2025
• Tracked and sent reminders to PIs to improve compliance with required grants management training • Supported BE-grant's development and launch of the Spend Verification Tool processes for faculty • Supported new Center development activities • Hosted the Autumn Research Leadership Meeting • Planned for Winter Grants Administration Training series
Winter 2026
• CBE-OR and CBE Research Admin Team hosted grants administration trainings on 5 topics (3 virtual sessions per topic) with 37 faculty total • Launched the Research Momentum Accelerator Program • Planned for Spring 2026 events
Spring 2026
• Hosted Community Engagement Professional Development Event • Hosted From Ideas to Impact: CBE Research Showcase and Annual PhD Symposium

1. CBE RESEARCH ACTIVITY

In this section, funding and outputs from CBE research are discussed. By tracking proposals, awards, and dissemination, we can see CBE's positive impact.

1.a. CBE Research Impact

Research and scholarship across the college are supported by a variety of sources in our departments and programs, including funded research, service agreements, and gifts. Outputs include publications and reports, work done with community partners during research and teaching projects, and shared learning opportunities that support the growth and development of students, faculty, staff, and our partners during the research process.

CBE academic products such as journal articles, reviews, books, and book chapters. In FY26, 31 publications were added to the research portal, the majority of which were journal articles and technical reports. Additionally, ten news stories were added to the research portal to highlight accomplishments and activities in CBE research.

Many shared learning opportunities took place in FY26, including a college-wide event From Ideas to Impact: CBE Research Showcase and Annual PhD Symposium, organized by the PhD programs in the college with support from the CBE Office of Research and CBE Dean's Office. This event included a well-attended poster session with faculty, staff, and students sharing their research products and conversing with fellow researchers and academics about their work. This 2-day event drew upwards of 90 attendees (see below in 2.j. Research Events).

To support the growth and development of students, faculty, and staff doing research, CBE-OR hosted and co-hosted trainings and research meetings throughout FY26, to create opportunities for engagement and learning. Trainings focused on 5 topics, expanded upon in

section 2.d. CBE research administrators worked with 18 CBE researchers in the college as PIs or Co-PIs on grant proposals during FY26. Two of the awards received had Co-PIs in different departments, bringing in \$105,000 total to CBE. The Research Leadership meeting took place in the Autumn academic quarter to discuss research updates, promote P&Ps, and discuss opportunities for support with CBE researchers.

All of these opportunities allowed for a deeper engagement amongst the CBE research community, increased visibility of CBE research projects and outputs, and created opportunities for growth amongst our community members. The impact CBE-OR support had on this work includes many hours of operational support to make these events and shared learning opportunities happen, as well as mentorship and leadership from Associate Dean for Research [Carrie Sturts Dossick](#) (ADR Dossick) throughout FY26.

1.b. CBE Research Funding

Research funding is discussed below for FY26. **Overall, FY26 funding supporting research-related activities totaled over \$4,444,820. Categories of funding received in FY26 include Grants and Contracts \$3,041,264, UW Internal Funding (non-CBE) totaled \$154,670, CBE Internal Funding totaled \$35,500, Gifts in support of research totaled \$376,128 and Service Agreements totaled \$837,258.**

1.b.i. Grants and Contracts

Grants and contracts in CBE are supported by two different offices: CBE's Finance and Administration Office and CSDE (Center for the Study of Demography and Ecology). During FY26, 18 different CBE faculty were PIs or Co-PIs on grant proposals and awards. During FY26 CBE researchers submitted 44 proposals through the CBE Finance and Administration Office, 4 proposals through CSDE, and 2 proposals as Co-PIs submitted through other departments.

During FY26, 15 awards were received, totaling \$3,081,264 (including external grants and contracts, and internal UW awards run through OSP). Of the 15 awards in FY26, 2 were awarded through other departments (none through CSDE). The total amount awarded by each department is represented in Table 2.

CBE PIs collaborate with many departments across campus. In FY26, PIs worked on proposals and awards with; the Evans School, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and CoMotion.

This data represents what is available in OSP at the time of compiling this report. The data is dynamic, but is as complete as possible. Table 2 and Table 3 include values of "MODs" or modifications to existing awards, in addition to the newly received award amounts.

Table 2: Awards Received in FY26 by Department

Department	External Funder Grant & Contract	Internal University of Washington	CBE Awards & Endowment Funds	Totals
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	Awards*	Fund Awards**		
Architecture	\$801,000	\$49,870	\$13,250	\$864,120
Landscape Architecture	\$30,000	\$4,800	\$8,750	\$43,550
Urban Design & Planning	\$319,121	\$90,000	\$6,750	\$415,871
Runstad Department of Real Estate*	\$1,350,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,350,000
Construction Management	\$541,143	\$10,000	\$6,750	\$557,893
Totals	\$3,041,264	\$154,670	\$35,500	
Total Awards	\$3,231,434			
This table does not include service agreements or gifts in support of research. *Includes WCRER and the Housing Futures Center.				

Of the 15 grant and contract awards received to CBE from external funders, Construction Management received 4 awards, Urban Design & Planning 4 awards, Architecture 3 awards, and Landscape Architecture 1 award. Runstad Department of Real Estate did not receive any awards from external funders in FY26 (see Figure 2). However, WCRER received 2 awards and the Housing Futures Center received 1 award, and for the purpose of this report, their data is reflected under the Runstad Department of Real Estate. Table 3 below represents the value of grant and contract proposals submitted by each department, illustrating the delay in proposals to awards across FYs, and includes proposals and awards submitted through CSDE or other units on campus. For comparison to prior years, see the following section **1.b.iv. Trends in Funding**.

Table 3: Grant & Contract Proposal and Award Amounts in FY26 by Department

Department	Proposal Amount Submitted	Award Amount Received
Architecture	\$3,914,014	\$801,000
Construction Management	\$2,624,426	\$541,143
Landscape Architecture	\$3,638,758	\$30,000
Runstad Department of Real Estate*	\$5,662,297	\$1,350,000
Urban Design and Planning	\$13,821,007	\$319,121
Totals	\$29,660,502	\$3,041,264

*Runstad Department of Real Estate includes WCRER and the Housing Futures Center for the purpose of this report. Of the award amount listed, \$850,000 was awarded to WCRER and \$500,000 was awarded to the Housing Futures Center.

Figure 2: Grant & Contract Proposals Submitted and Awards Received by Department



Figure 2 reflects all proposals submitted and awards received in FY26. This does not reflect a one-to-one comparison of proposals to awards due to the time lag expected between submitting a proposal and receiving a notice of award, which can span multiple fiscal year periods (See Year-to-year trends in the next section).

In addition to external funding, UW-Internal grants have been awarded to CBE from other UW organizations, including EarthLab, AI@UW, Center for Exposures, Diseases, Genomics, and Environment (EDGE), and Royalty Research Fund. For comparison, previous trends of funding in this category were \$340,000 in FY25, \$432,415 in FY24, and \$244,833 in FY23. In FY26, \$154,670 was awarded to CBE researchers from UW (non-CBE) sources. See Table 4 for additional details regarding amounts received from internal sources. Additionally, CBE awarded funds from the college to internal researchers, totaling \$35,500 (discussed further in section “3.g. Internal Grants”).

Table 4: Breakdown of Awards from UW-Internal Funding Sources (non-CBE)

Organization	Total Amount Received	Number of Awards Received	Award PI Departments

EarthLab	\$14,800	2	Construction Management (1), Landscape Architecture (1)
AI@UW	\$49,870	1	Architecture
Research Royalty Fund	\$40,000	1	Urban Design & Planning
Center for Exposures, Diseases, Genomics, and Environment (EDGE)	\$50,000	1	Urban Design & Planning

Year-over-year analysis is presented below in section 1.b.iv. Trends in Funding and in Appendix 1. In summary, FY23 research funding totaled \$10,789,437, which surpassed the \$4,000,000 benchmark of research support received in FY22 with a particularly large single award that year. FY24 funding totaled over \$5,481,400, which reflects a lower award amount compared to FY23. Despite politically imposed research funding challenges, the FY25 research-related funding still totaled \$3,565,332.

Endowed professorships are not included in the funding listed above, as these funds support a mix of research, teaching, and service activities. While there are many endowed professorships in the college, the list below includes new and renewed endowed professorships awarded in FY26 to CBE Faculty.

Bob Filley Endowed Chair in Real Estate Studies: Arthur Acolin (renew) and Vince Wang (new)

Runstad Professorship in Real Estate: Shannon Affholter (new) and Rebecca Walter (new)

Howard Wright Endowed Chair in Architecture and Urban Planning: Christopher Campbell (new)

Victor L. Lyon and Alvin J. Wolff Endowed Professorship in Real Estate: Sofia Dermisi (renew)

Scan Design Foundation Endowed Chair in Built Environments: Kathryn Merlino (renew)

John and Rosalind Jacobi Family Endowed Deanship in the College of Built Environments: Ken Yocom (new, appointed by Provost Serio)

1.b.ii. Gifts in support of research

CBE received gifts in support of research totaling \$376,128 during FY26. This funding was supported by 8 research funds: Carbon Leadership & Research Forum (now called the Life Cycle Lab) (\$9,295), Integrated Design Lab Support Fund (\$38,740), Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) Base Support for the IDL (\$199,913), Friends of Livable City Year (\$65,412), Urban@UW Impact Fund (\$200), Landscape Architecture Research Support Fund (\$16,000), College of Built Environments Dean Research Fund (\$1,000), and CBE Applied

Research Consortium (\$45,567). This total amount for FY26 represents actual amounts received and does not include any outstanding pledged payments. For reference, the total amount of gifts in support of research has decreased over the past three fiscal years; previous amounts received were \$564,506 in FY25, \$573,126 in FY24, and \$929,236 in FY23. This can be explained by some transitions in the centers and labs (e.g., the transition of Carbon Leadership Forum). We anticipate an increase in gifts in the coming year as new centers seek gifts and grants.

1.b.iii. Service agreements

CBE Researchers, and some Centers and Labs, received funding in the form of service agreements from industry, government, and community partners. Table 5 outlines the specific groups that received the funding. Service agreements totaled \$837,258 in FY26. This is a significant increase over prior years (\$358,000 in FY25 and \$399,554 in FY24).

Table 5: Service Agreements	
Unit	Amount
Dean	\$16,605
WCRER (Dean)	\$50,047
Urban@UW (Dean)	\$9,178
Housing Futures (Dean)	\$82,561
Architecture	\$4,500
IDL (Architecture)	\$209,090
Life Cycle Lab (Architecture)	\$285,751
Construction Management	\$30,591
Landscape Architecture	\$121,479
Urban Design & Planning	\$27,456
TOTAL	\$837,258

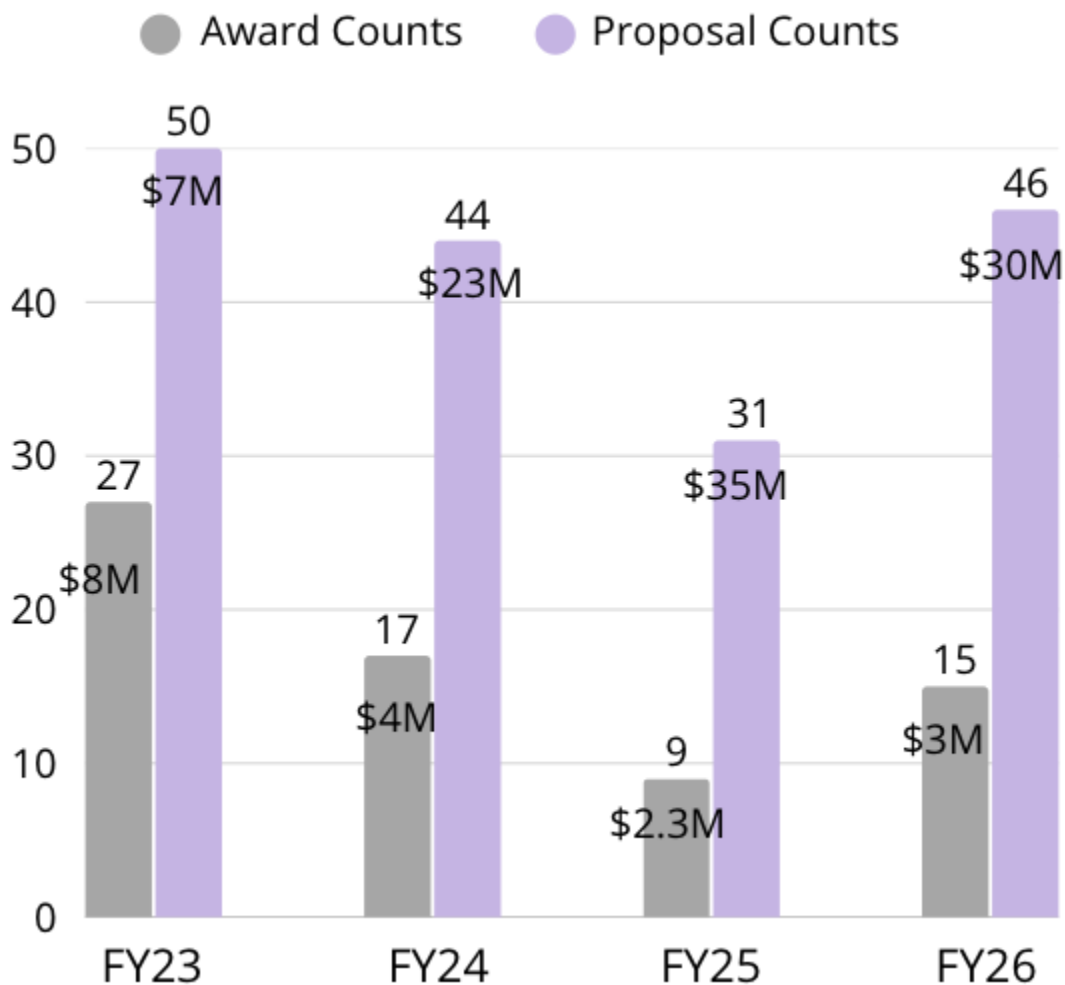
1.b.iv. Trends in Funding

As this report summarizes our 4th year of data, trends in funding for research have begun to emerge.

Following the unusually high research funding level in FY23, CBE's research funding has returned to a more typical range. FY26 funding totaled \$4,369,820, compared with \$3,565,332 in FY25, \$5,481,400 in FY24, and \$10,789,437 in FY23. Politically imposed challenges to research funding affected FY25 results. FY22 established a benchmark of approximately \$4 million, although that year included one particularly large award. FY22 data is incomplete because reporting was more closely aligned with the calendar year, so this report begins the year-to-year comparison with FY23.

Figure 3 represents the change in grant & contract funding year-over-year between proposal and award counts, and the total amounts of those proposals and awards. This is the most complete data we have for FY23-FY26. We hope to expand upon this year-over-year data moving forward.

Figure 3: Counts & Amounts of Grant & Contract Awards & Proposals



While detailed metrics for FY23-FY26 are available in Appendix 1, we summarize some of the trends here.

Overall, research funding remains below the levels reported in FY23 and FY24. However, FY26 shows signs of recovery in grant and contract activity from the large shift in federal funding policy and practice in FY25. Grant and contract funding increased approximately 30% from FY25 to FY26, and the number of awards increased from 9 to 16. Proposal activity also rebounded in FY26, with 49 proposals submitted compared with 31 in FY25. This suggests that CBE researchers are actively pursuing funding, and this may result in an increase in awards in FY27 once those proposals are reviewed and awarded.

UW-internal grant funding also declined in FY26, totaling \$154,670. This compares with \$340,000 in FY25, \$432,415 in FY24, and \$244,833 in FY23.

Gifts in support of research totaled \$376,128 in FY26, continuing a decline from previous years. Gifts totaled \$564,506 in FY25, \$573,126 in FY24, and \$929,236 in FY23. We anticipate that research-related gifts will increase in FY27 as new centers begin seeking and receiving gift funding.

FY26 funding trends varied considerably by source. Declines in UW-internal funding and gifts were partially offset by growth in grant and contract awards and a significant increase in service agreement revenue. The results suggest a shift in the funding portfolio rather than a uniform decline across all research-support categories.

2. CBE-OR EFFORTS

CBE-OR's goals are to support, connect, elevate, and accelerate research at CBE. In addition to aligning our work with the CBE Strategic Framework and our understanding of CBE research needs, we have four overarching values during FY26: Student Research Experience, Cross-Boundary Scholarship, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and Continual Improvement. These values are present in various ways throughout our operations. The Spring research symposium was designed to include a technical committee of PhD students to engage their perspective and give them opportunities to strengthen their professional portfolio. Cross-boundary scholarship is clear in the funding received by CBE research teams. In FY26, 2 proposals were Co-PI proposals through other departments, and 4 were through CSDE. PIs worked on proposals and awards with; Evans School, College of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and CoMotion. Throughout FY26 we continued to work to improve our services and our approaches, including offering multiple grants administration trainings, along with emphasizing continuous improvement in our research culture.

2.a. Strategy and Infrastructure

CBE-OR continues to develop infrastructure support for CBE Researchers. In FY25 and FY26, continuous edits have been made to the Research Roadmap on the CBE Intranet, which serves as a centralized place for answers to common questions, in addition to training and other resources.

In FY24, a need was identified for research operations support for specific research projects. ADR Dossick explored various models to address this need, including a shared staff role to provide support across multiple projects. This need extended to shared support for Centers, Labs, faculty, staff, and students who needed project management resources. Further pilot models of shared support were offered to various faculty teams in FY25, and a formal model for this support was established in FY26, called the Research Momentum Accelerator program (see section 2.e.i.).

2.b. Evaluation and Metrics

Reports were pulled for FY26 evaluation and metrics. Reports consisted of advancement reports regarding financial gifts in support of research, and grants and contracts reports summarizing totals regarding funding and grant applications applied for and received. Unlike previous years, there were no marketing and communications reports regarding research intranet page viewership available.

In June 2025, ADR Dossick and PM Randall began an additional evaluation project for the ARC Program with Teri Randall. The evaluation involves 3 surveys, and numerous qualitative interviews, and will result in a final report. This work took place in Summer and Autumn 2025, however Teri Randall did not have capacity to complete the analysis since receiving the first round of survey data. We hope to have data to share in the FY27 report.

In an effort to expand our metrics and evaluation analysis, PM Randall used the UW AI model Purple to analyze CVs from faculty annual review. Although this process illuminated potential future opportunities for AI tools, the analysis didn't prove helpful with this year's data. We ran a pilot to explore using faculty CVs (which they update as part of the annual review process) to develop metrics for research outputs such as publications, presentations, and events. In this pilot, we found several limitations to the ways that AI currently supports this analysis. Purple required batching of the documents due to document upload and page length limits. This restriction impacts the ability to run a large comparison across all CVs. The pilot analysis was run with 8 CVs from the Construction Management department. Purple identified 55 new publications published in FY26, however, this was not an accurate count upon review of the CVs. The flaw was caused by publications being reported by faculty in different formats, which caused Purple to identify more publications than were truly from FY26. The publications identified were from any date in 2025 and any date in 2026. Although this is helpful information to have for communications in general, this is not a metrics value we can use in the format of this report, because year-over-year, we would not be able to remove duplicates and accurately identify the number of publications within the fiscal year without manual analysis. We will continue to explore using AI to expand upon our metrics and evaluation process.

2.c. Community Engagement

An ongoing focus for CBE and the Office of Research is Community Engagement. Community Engagement is defined by the UW as "collaboration between the University (students, faculty, staff, and alumni) and our extended communities (local to global) [...] for the equitable and mutually beneficial co-creation and exchange of knowledge, insights, creativity, resources, and capacities to address critical social issues and/or envision and contribute to the future well-being of our communities and planet," [more information available here](#).

CBE research has a strong trend of including community engagement components, and the Office of Research continues to support and develop these efforts. In FY24, 75% of research projects included a community engagement component, or worked with community partners. CBE-OR hosted a professional development session for individuals engaged in community-engaged scholarship in April 2025. CBE-OR will continue to prioritize supporting community engagement in FY27, and plans to co-host a community engagement focused event with EarthLab.

2.d. Professional Development

ADR Dossick conducted a range of mentorship and professional development activities throughout FY26. ADR Dossick maintains office hours throughout the year to allow for access and visibility when support is needed. ADR Dossick met with CBE faculty and staff for over 24 hours during FY26. Meeting topics included general onboarding and introduction to CBE-OR support, guidance for grant application planning and submission, grant management support,

new center development and startup support, and shared learning sessions. ADR Dossick also attends monthly Research Advisory Board meetings with the Vice Provost for Research, research leaders, and ADRs from across campus. New in FY26, ADR Dossick participates in university-level committees, including AI@UW, the Graduate School's PhD Taskforce committee, and the Research Cyberinfrastructure committee. The time spent with those committees totaled over 19 hours.

In FY26, the Office of Research nominated Professor Gregg Colburn for the UW Faculty Lecture award on behalf of CBE. The decision for this nomination will be announced in FY27.

In FY26, Kate Simonen was selected for the Research Impact Advocates Program which includes trainings and workshops for researchers on how to better engage and communicate impact to the public.

In FY25, the Office of Research and Research Administration team hosted a series of 90 minute Pre-Award Workshops to improve grant process and collaboration. Two make-up sessions were hosted in Autumn 2025, and echoed many of the same themes that came up in previous workshops.

Additional trainings took place in FY26; Research Administrator Mike Bartley hosted trainings on 5 topics (3 virtual sessions per topic). The topics included: Budget Reports, PI Dashboard, No Cost Extensions, Employee Compensation Certification, and the Grant Spend Verification Tool. These sessions were attended by 37 faculty. 17 faculty attended a session on all 5 topics.

There was an emphasis on compliance in FY26; one way that CBE-OR supported this effort was by encouraging PIs to be up to date on their required trainings. As of the close of FY26, 89% of PIs were complete for the Grants Management for PI training, and 68% for the FCOI training.

2.e. Centers and Labs Oversight

CBE-OR continues to provide support and oversight for Centers and Labs. Although budgeting and human resources oversight are conducted by Centers and Labs department Chairs, the CBE-OR team has the opportunity to provide other kinds of support. In FY26, ADR Dossick spent about 8 hours mentoring PIs related to their existing centers or new center development.

In FY26, PM Randall provided many hours of shared support for centers and research projects. The support is estimated at a minimum of 4 hours per week for the RMA program, but fluctuated weekly and was often greater than that. This support included website work, file management, general scheduling, and administrative support, as well as strategic planning and project management. This support was distributed across 3 new centers, 1 research project, and general support for the faculty in the process of starting new centers this year.

2.e.i. Research Momentum Accelerator Program

In Winter 2026, CBE-OR launched the Research Momentum Accelerator (RMA) Program. This program was developed in partnership with the CBE Leadership team, with the goal of providing expanded staff support for faculty with large research portfolios, and those starting new research centers. The program was piloted with 4 faculty; 3 who were in the process of starting new research centers, and 1 with a large research portfolio.

After the pilot, the 2 new centers continued as the primary members of the RMA program and were very active in FY26. The centers, Center for Timber Innovation in the Built Environment, and the Housing Futures Center, will continue to receive bridged staffing support from PM Randall for up to a 3-year period, as long as they continue to meet program criteria. The program has a short application process and accepts applicants on a rolling basis, so additional participants will be welcomed into the program as they are eligible. The 3rd center is still in development (PI: Celina Balderas Guzman), and was continuing to strategize during FY26, but didn't need a large amount of support from the RMA infrastructure. They will continue to receive 2 years of support (FY27 and FY28) as defined by the RMA guidelines.

The Housing Futures Center relied on the RMA program for all administrative support, and for being the first point of contact for financial and communications support for the first few months of the pilot, prior to hiring the Center's first full-time employee in July 2026. Support needed from the RMA has since declined (during early FY27), but communications support remains a service covered by the RMA program for the Center.

The Center for Timber Innovation in the Built Environments is hosting both a kick-off event, and a faculty development workshop in Autumn 2026 (FY27). The workshop is organized primarily with support from the RMA program and other than communications support has been the primary need for that center thus far.

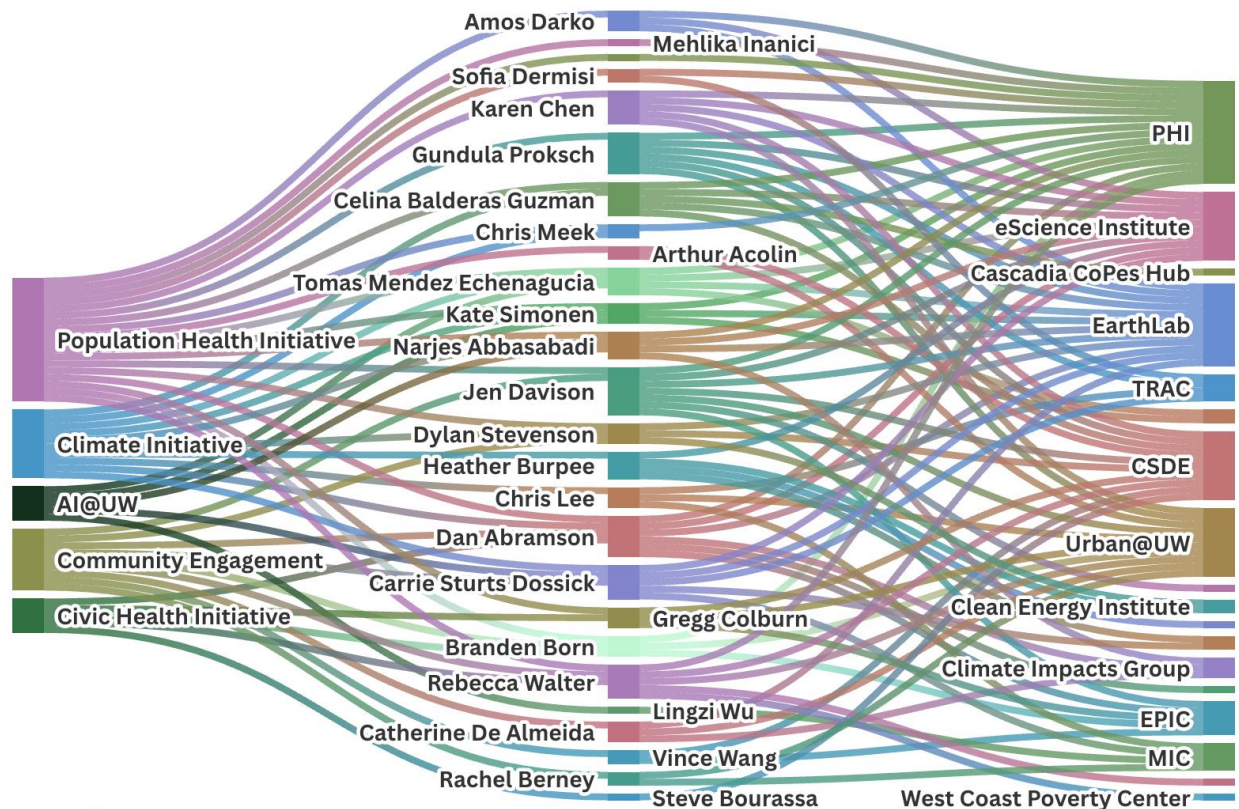
It remains early to see the full impacts of this program, however the faculty have expressed the positive impact the administrative support has had on their workflow and center development. Gregg Colburn, Director of the Housing Futures Center shared;

"The Research Momentum Accelerator has been instrumental to the launch of the Housing Futures Center. Having the time, focus, and expertise of Sarah Randall during our launch phase was essential as we established the center, hired our first full-time staff member, processed gift and grant support, created financial systems, brought UW students and faculty onto projects, and learned how to navigate within the broader structures of the UW and the College of Built Environments. I would not have been able to accomplish what we did without the support of the RMA."

2.f. Communities of Research (CoR)

Historically, CBE-OR has supported topic-based and role-based communities of practice (CoPs). Topic-based CoPs included Climate Solutions; Technology; and Humanities, Histories, & Futures. Role-based CoPs include research leaders, staff who do research, and students who do research. In FY26, under the new leadership of Dean Yocom, the college moved away from the concept of CoPs and will adopt a future concept of Communities of Research. There will be a process in the future to develop Communities of Research in a way to serve the participants. As part of this effort, a sankey diagram (Figure 4) was created to visualize the connections between CBE researchers and their networks across the University. This is a living map and continues to evolve. Edits to this figure can be made by emailing be-research@uw.edu.

Figure 4: Research Collaborations Sankey



2.g. Internal Grants

CBE administered 4 internal grants in FY26. The first 2, the Johnston-Hastings Endowment for Research Travel of Architecture Faculty and the Johnston-Hastings Endowment for Publication Support are annual endowed awards. The 2 additional awards this year in lieu of the CBE Inspire Fund were the Student Summer Funding award (8 awardees) and the Open Access Funding (3 awardees).

Johnston-Hastings Endowment for Research Travel of Architecture Faculty

In FY26, 4 Johnston-Hastings Travel Awardees were selected.

- Ann Huppert; “The Culture of Construction in Sixteenth-Century Rome”
 - An extension was requested, so this travel may take place between June-December 2026, and included in a future report.
- Mehlika Inanici; Travel to Berlin to research the intensity, spectra, and dynamics of daylight and electric lighting in built environment
 - “I would like to thank you for your support through the 2025-2026 Johnston-Hastings Travel Award, which allowed me to travel to Berlin, Germany, to work with Dr. Martine Knoop at the Technical University of Berlin between June 13 and 29, 2026. [...] The purpose of this travel was to use High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography techniques to measure spectrally accurate lighting at a per-pixel resolution. During my stay, Dr. Knoop and I conducted several laboratory-controlled and field measurements to develop a

workflow to improve the color accuracy of HDR photographs.” Read the full report on this travel in Appendix 2.

- Louisa Iarocci; “Lost Architecture of the Supply Chain: Oil Fields”
 - Louisa was able to complete a portion of her project before the end of academic year 2026, however a final summary will be included in a future report.
- Donald King; “Introduction to the Cultural Journey: Morocco and Moorish Andalusia”
 - These funds were returned as Donald was unable to attend this conference.

FY27 awardee is Louisa Iarocci, whose research product will be featured in a future report.

Johnston-Hastings Endowment for Publication Support

In FY26, Susan Jones (Affiliate Associate Professor, Architecture) was awarded the Johnston-Hastings Research Publication Award for her project “Light on Wood.” Susan shared the below final report on her project:

“Receiving the award, from two people I so deeply respected, Jane and Norm, was an amazing boost to bringing the reality of the book to fruition. The majority of the book had been written, but I was finalizing a stringent, editing process, and had deadlines to meet with our publisher. The procurement of rights, and payments had therefore fallen to the bottom of my limited time priorities. And then Jane and Norm stepped in!

We were able with confidence to secure the rights to five or six important, national-level photos that really helped set the scene for the incredible impact of the forest fires, especially, on the small town and surrounding mountains of Greenville, CA.

Many thanks to you all – and especially to Jane and Norm!”

FY27 awardees are Vikram Prakash and Ann Huppert whose products will be featured in a future report.

In FY26, the decision was made to sunset the Inspire Fund award, to focus CBE-OR resources on providing support in other ways, such as the Research Momentum Accelerator program (2.e.i). CBE-OR was able to provide funding to a cohort of researchers for Student Summer 2026 support, and for Open Access Awards.

Student Summer Funding

Summer 2026 awardees received \$3,375 each:

- Rachel Berney
- Lingzi Wu
- Celina Balderas Guzman
- Catherine De Almeida
- Tomas Mendez Echenagucia
- Vikram Prakash
- Chris Lee
- Manish Chalana

Open Access Funding

Awardees received \$1,000 each:

- Brian McLaren
- Vincent Javet
- Catherine De Almeida

Inspire Fund

In FY25, the 5th cycle of the [Inspire Fund](#) was awarded. The purpose of the Inspire Fund is to support research activities for which a relatively small amount of support can be transformative. This may include work that is traditionally underfunded, or that done by scholars who are members of groups currently underrepresented in our college.

2025 Inspire Fund Awardees and projects are listed below.

1. "Enhancing Feasibility and Evaluation for the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program in King County": Vince Wang
This funding was used to support a doctoral student during the summer to work on this research. They completed a systematic literature review, and developed an evaluation matrix.
2. "Wildfire Smoke Readiness of Low-Income Households in Seattle": Amos Darko
Amos shared; "This project examined how low-income households in South Seattle prepare for and respond to wildfire smoke events, with particular attention to the physical attributes of their homes. Through a community-based survey conducted in partnership with Byrd Barr Place, the study assessed residents' knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to wildfire smoke readiness, alongside housing conditions such as air sealing, ventilation, filtration, smoke infiltration, and indoor air quality. The findings will inform the development of a community-informed framework for improving the wildfire smoke readiness of low-income households in Seattle."
3. "Equitable Public Electric Vehicle Charging in Seattle: A Baseline Data Mining Approach for Public Capital Planning": Chris Lee, Lingzi Wu
The Inspire Fund supported two complementary areas of work on equitable public EV charging infrastructure planning. First, the funding enabled extensive data collection and integration of community charging requests, EV ownership, existing charging infrastructure, and spatial equity indicators in Seattle, supporting preliminary analyses that helped Abdul-Razak Alidu (BE PhD student) develop a broader dissertation research framework. Second, the funding supported the development of a multi-objective framework integrating charging demand, deployment cost, and equity considerations for curbside EV charger planning; this work resulted in a paper presented at the [i3CE 2026 Conference](#).
4. "Right Here, Right Now: Building Sustainability and Resilience through the RAC Model for Equitable Community-University Partnerships": Rachel Berney, Jen Davison, Kate Landis
The RAC Program Analysis draws on evidence from retreat notes, surveys, and final reports, and combines theory-based evaluation, pattern-matching,

magnitude coding, and Community Coalition Action Theory to assess RAC's logic and the strength of each finding. It shows that simple frameworks and dedicated collaboration time led to steady team improvements, but ongoing funding and university payment-system problems remained barriers for community partners.

Additional internal funding was received from different sources within the University of Washington. Below are some examples of this funding.

UW Interdisciplinary Center for Exposures, Diseases, Genomics, and Environment (EDGE)

- “Integrating Mental Health into Urban Planning: Heat-Related Behavioral and Psychological Responses Across Zoning,” Karen Chen ([June 2026](#))

EarthLab

- “Pursuing Collaborative Adaptation in Coastal Washington,” Celina Balderas Guzman ([April 2026](#))
- “Building a Heat Mitigation Retrofit Framework for Public K-12 Schools in Washington State,” Amos Darko ([April 2026](#))

AI@UW

- “SEED-AI 2026: DesignAI – An AI-Augmented Framework for Design Learning,” Narjes Abbasabadi ([April 2026](#))

Royalty Research Fund

- “Urban Form, Mobility, and Expressed Stress During Extreme Heat: Implications for Zoning and Planning,” Karen Chen ([June 2026](#))

2.h. Internal Communications

CBE-OR continued to use the research listserve to share highlights of CBE research; upcoming research meetings; updates from CBE-OR, as well as, when appropriate, from CBE’s Office of Finance and Administration; opportunities for conferences, awards, fellowships, funding, and competitions; and events related to the built environment disciplines.

The Research Roadmap and Research FAQ pages are both designed to provide trainings and resources for CBE researchers during the whole grant process. In FY27, CBE-OR plans to work in partnership with the Research Administrator to redesign both of these resource pages to improve their efficacy for faculty searching for resources in the grant process.

2.i. External Communications

The Research Portal is the primary CBE-OR external communication platform. In FY26, 31 publications by CBE authors were added to the research portal, and 10 news stories were added to the research portal to highlight accomplishments and activities in CBE research. (This is a decrease over 45 publications and 18 news stories in FY25.)

Research Portal website metrics were available for a period of January 1-September 17, 2026. Views for different types of content included; Publications (32,078), People (13,823), News stories (7,947), and Labs and Centers pages (6,792). Of note, an error or 404 landing page was visited 29,151 times during this data period. This is something that will be addressed as part of the CBE-OR’s planned FY27 web design review.

Looking forward to FY27, a goal for the Office of Research is to redesign the Research web presence. This redesign aims to improve clarity of connections between different research efforts, labs and centers, and projects across the college. This may include integrating research pages into the Research Portal, however this vision will still need to be workshopped and developed in FY27.

Finally, the “college at a glance” one-page report continued and served as an external communication summary of the operations and outcomes from CBE-OR in FY26 (the FY23-FY25 one-page reports are available on the CBE Research Intranet).

2.j. Research Events

CBE-OR hosted specific events for research faculty development, especially focused on mentorship, student research experience, and shared learning in FY26.

CBE-OR supported the CBE Research Administration Team’s grants administration trainings on 5 topics (3 virtual sessions per topic) during Winter 2026. Over 37 faculty attended these trainings with Research Administrator Mike Bartley. Of that, 17 faculty attended all 5 training topics.

CBE-OR hosted one Research Leadership Meeting in FY26, which took place on October 13th. The meeting focused on improving research culture and compliance with new and changing policies. With the roll-out of the RMA program, the winter training program, the spring CBE research showcase, and other email updates from CBE-OR, a Spring meeting was deemed unnecessary.

On April 9th and 10th 2026, CBE-OR co-hosted From Ideas to Impact: CBE Research Showcase and Annual PhD Symposium in honor of Professor Anne Vernez Moudon. April 9th was hosted by CBE-OR, and planned in partnership with the CBE marketing and communications staff. Over 30 posters were submitted, mostly lead by CBE student authors. Two posters were selected for awards based on 1) innovative research and 2) research communication. A team of 5 PhD students participated on the poster technical committee for the event, organizing the posters, and communicated with poster authors, while a team of faculty. April 10th was hosted in partnership with both PhD programs in the college, planned by CBE-OR. Over 19 guest speakers were featured throughout this all-day event. This 2-day event welcomed over 90 attendees.

The events below were hosted in FY26, however CBE-OR was not involved in the planning of the events themselves. We would still like to highlight them as strong examples of the work happening here in CBE.

- Gundula Proksch, Professor of Architecture, hosted an exhibit in Gould Gallery [February 2-March 6, 2026](#) entitled “Engineered Living Materials for the Built Environment”, which was a successful showcase highlighting interdisciplinary research and collaboration with the Department of Chemistry, Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Bioengineering, and the Department of Architecture.
- Daniel Winterbottom, Professor of Landscape Architecture, hosted “EXHIBITION: Designing, Crafting and Building Community: 30 Years of Practicing a Design / Build Learning Model,” in Gould Gallery, [April 1-May 1, 2026](#).

3. Looking to Next Year 2026-2027

CBE-OR has multiple goals for FY27, including a continued focus on community engagement, Labs & Centers support, and grants administration collaboration and compliance. A revised strategic plan will guide CBE-OR in FY27 (see Figure 5 below).

Figure 5: FY27 Strategic Plan

CBE Office of Research 2026-27 Strategic Action Plan

We work in partnership with CBE administration and advancement teams; college, department, and center leadership; and CBE researchers.

Mission

- To accelerate and elevate CBE Research with strategic leadership, support, and collaboration

Vision

- CBE is a trusted community partner, pursuing bold, cross-boundary collaborations that generate broad impact.
- CBE has a supportive, respectful, collaborative research environment for staff, faculty, and students.

Values

- Continual Improvement
- Student Research Experience
- Intercultural Engagement
- Cross-Boundary Scholarship



For internal communication, our goal includes an Intranet pages refresh, and redesigning the Research Roadmap page to feature links to trainings and policies and procedures from the CBE Finance and Administration Office. This work will be done in partnership with the CBE Research Administrator.

A goal for FY26 was to develop a services support model for labs and centers. We met this goal by developing and launching the RMA program. In FY27, we aim to further expand the services offered to faculty in this program, and continue to develop a strong foundation of support for labs and centers in CBE.

Other goals include expanding the types of metrics and evaluations included in this report. This may include exploring new tools such as AI integration to expand our capabilities to assess and communicate the variety of research and impact. We welcome any ideas for the year ahead.

Appendix 1: FY23-FY26 Comparison Metrics

Research Metrics				
Category	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Total Research Support	\$10,789,437	\$5,481,400	\$13,536,000 (\$3,565,332)	\$4,444,820
Grants & Contracts	\$8,893,570	\$4,076,305	\$12,236,994 (\$2,266,326)	\$3,041,264
UW Internal (Non-CBE)	\$244,833	\$408,415	\$340,000	\$154,670
CBE Internal	\$44,250	\$24,000	\$36,500	\$35,500
Gifts in support of research	\$929,236	\$573,126	\$564,506	\$376,128
Service Agreements	\$677,548	\$399,554	\$358,000	\$837,258
Grants & Contracts				
ARCH - External G&C awards	\$7,091,397	\$589,000	\$10,968,666 (\$997,998)	\$801,000
ARCH - Internal UW awards/funds	\$17,500	\$179,722	\$200,000	\$49,870
ARCH - CBE awards/endowed funds	\$14,250	\$10,000	\$16,500	\$13,250
LARCH - External G&C awards	\$93,052	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
LARCH - Internal UW awards/funds	\$67,500	\$120,000	\$0	\$4,800
LARCH - CBE awards/endowed funds	\$7,500	\$5,500	\$0	\$8,750
UDP - External G&C awards	\$1,013,669	\$2,372,311	\$772,389	\$319,121
UDP - Internal UW awards/funds	\$67,500	\$0	\$33,333.33	\$90,000
UDP - CBE awards/endowed funds	\$7,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$6,750
RE - External G&C awards	\$596,169	\$504,994	\$219,131	\$1,350,000
RE - Internal UW awards/funds	\$5,000	\$39,693	\$0	\$0
RE - CBE awards/endowed funds	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$0
CM - External G&C awards	\$99,283	\$610,000	\$276,808	\$541,143
CM - Internal UW awards/funds	\$12,416	\$0	\$106,666.67	\$10,000
CM - CBE awards/endowed	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$6,750

funds				
PhD in the Built Environment Internal UW awards (Judy Bowes)	\$9,917	\$69,000	\$0	\$0
Number of Proposals/Awards				
OSP proposals submitted	32	48	31	46
Proposals submitted through CBE	9	35	18	44
Proposals submitted through CSDE	7	5	4	0
Proposals submitted through other departments	16	8	9	2
Awards received through CSDE		0	1	0
Grants & Contracts Awarded through CBE		17	6	13
ARCH external G&C awarded	11	2	2	3
LARCH external G&C awarded	2	0	0	1
UDP external G&C awarded (includes LCY)	8	9	2	4
RE external G&C awarded	4	2	0	3
CM external G&C awarded	2	4	2	4
Communications				
Research Portal News Stories & Spotlight Stories	28	50	18	10
Research Portal Publications Added	587 (portal build-out)	83	45	31
Intranet funding page views	282	454	Not available*	Not available*
Intranet funding page users	147	286	Not available*	Not available*
Intranet funding page average engagement time per user	1m 58s	1m 43s	Not available	Not available
Intranet funding page views per user	1.92	1.59	Not available	Not available
Events & Professional Development				
Research Events/guest speakers	3	13	6	3
CBE-OR Associate Dean mentorship hrs	22	33.5	28	24

Appendix 2: Johnston Hastings Travel Report, Mehlika Inanici, Ph.D.

7/30/2026

College of Built Environments University of Washington Seattle, WA, 98105

Re: Johnston-Hastings Travel Award 2025-2026

To whom it may concern:

I would like to thank you for your support through the 2025-2026 Johnston-Hastings Travel Award, which allowed me to travel to Berlin, Germany, to work with Dr. Martine Knoop at the Technical University of Berlin between June 13 and 29, 2026. Dr. Knoop is the Daylighting Chair at TU Berlin, Department of Electrical Engineering.

The purpose of this travel was to use High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography techniques to measure spectrally accurate lighting at a per-pixel resolution. During my stay, Dr. Knoop and I conducted several laboratory-controlled and field measurements to develop a workflow to improve the color accuracy of HDR photographs. These measurements include chamber measurements using monochrome and hyperspectral light sources and field spectral sky scanners, both of which we do not have at the University of Washington.

The data gathered through this work is invaluable for improving color accuracy using widely available handheld cameras and offers a more effective workflow than existing techniques. The HDR photography method, which I initially validated during my postdoctoral research at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for measuring lighting intensity, has since become a widely adopted approach for luminance measurements.

More recently, interest among lighting professionals has expanded beyond measuring light intensity to include accurate characterization of color. The spectral composition of light has been linked to a range of health outcomes, including regulation of the sleep-wake cycle, thermoregulation, metabolic processes, and mental well-being. As a result, the study of light spectra and their physiological effects has emerged as one of the most active and rapidly growing areas of research within chronobiology and lighting design.

The work will lead to two deliverables. Initial results will be shared during the 24th International Radiance Workshop, to be held in Seattle between 31 August and September 2, 2026. The extended work will be submitted for a journal article. The support of the Johnston-Hastings Travel Award and the College of Built Environments will be acknowledged.

I sincerely thank you for your support that allowed me to have for a very enriching experience.
Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Mehlika Inanici, Ph.D.
Professor of Architecture
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Enclosed: images from the lighting laboratory and rooftop at TU Berlin



Calibrating camera in controlled environment



Sky scanner at the rooftop



Testing HDR photographs with several devices