



# Enabling researcher and accelerating research

Scott Friedman, Ph.D.

Principal – Higher Education Research Strategy  
Amazon Web Services

# How AWS enables research

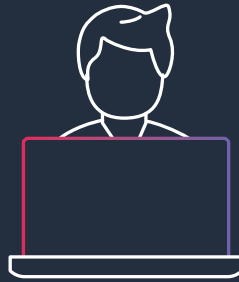


# Observations



## Strategic

- R&D growth
- Recruitment and retention
- Rankings and perception



## Resources

- Availability
- Access
- Scale



## Infrastructure

- Instrumentation
- Compute and data
- Laboratories
- Collaboration



## Security

- Funding requirements
- IP protection
- Ransomware

# Anecdotal observation

Virtually every school we visit has a plan to...

- Become an R1 if they are an R2 by doubling research spending in the next 5-10 years.
- Cross the 1 or 2 billion dollar R&D spend threshold if they are an R1.

# In context

| Higher education R&D spend (\$ millions)                                   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   | 2021   | 2022   |
| 58,083   | 60,087 | 60,876 | 61,511 | 62,318 | 64,604 | 67,777 | 71,115 | 74,890 | 78,157 | 80,823 | 85,787 | 91,451 |
| Adjusted, constant 2017 dollars: Growth averaged 1.7% annually (2010-2022) |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 64,802   | 65,682 | 65,328 | 64,905 | 64,631 | 66,386 | 68,991 | 71,115 | 73,212 | 75,145 | 76,695 | 77,838 | 77,519 |
| -  | 880    | -354   | -423   | -274   | 1,755  | 2,605  | 2,124  | 2,097  | 1,933  | 1,550  | 1,143  | -319   |

Source: NSF 24-317, January 22, 2024



# In context

## Something virtually anyone in U.S. research has noticed

- Business performed 18 percent of basic and 39 percent of total U.S. research in 2011.

By 2021, that share had risen to 34 percent and 49 percent respectively.

- Higher education's share of basic research has fallen from 54 percent to 46 percent during that same period.

Source: NSF 24-317, January 22, 2024

# Research needs are not the same as the enterprise

| Enterprise IT   | Research IT  |
|---|--|
| Same problems, different priorities   |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Reliability</li><li>2. Manageability</li><li>3. Cost</li><li>4. Performance</li></ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Performance</li><li>2. Cost</li><li>3. Manageability</li><li>4. Reliability</li></ol>   |
| User / management engagement  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Users:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Want complete solutions</li><li>• Minimize disruption</li><li>• Consistency</li></ul></li><li>• Management:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does this fit with everything else?</li><li>• How does it save money</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Users:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Want access to technology</li><li>• Want a partner to understand their problem and develop solutions WITH them</li><li>• No “constraints”</li></ul></li><li>• Management:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do we accelerate grants</li></ul></li></ul> |

# Q&A







# Thank you!

Scott Friedman, Ph.D.

scofri@amazon.com



Please take our survey: Enabling researcher and  
accelerating research