

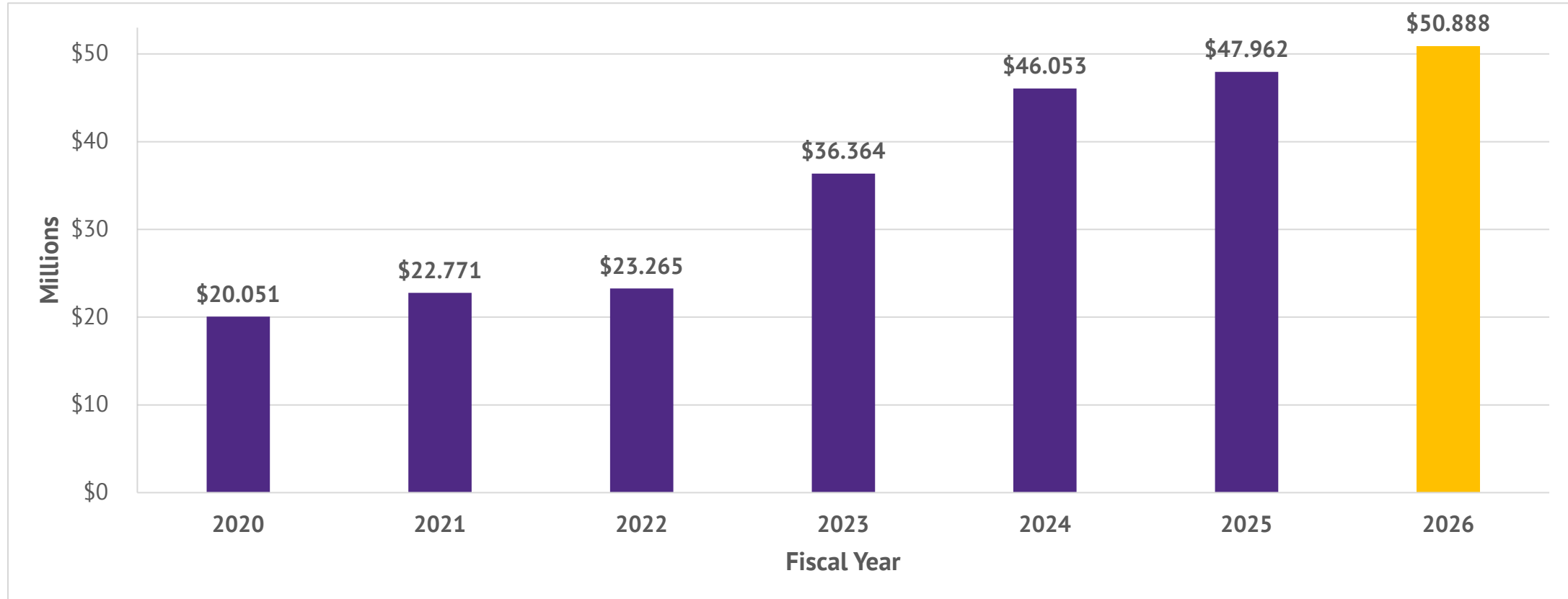


Research & Economic Development Report

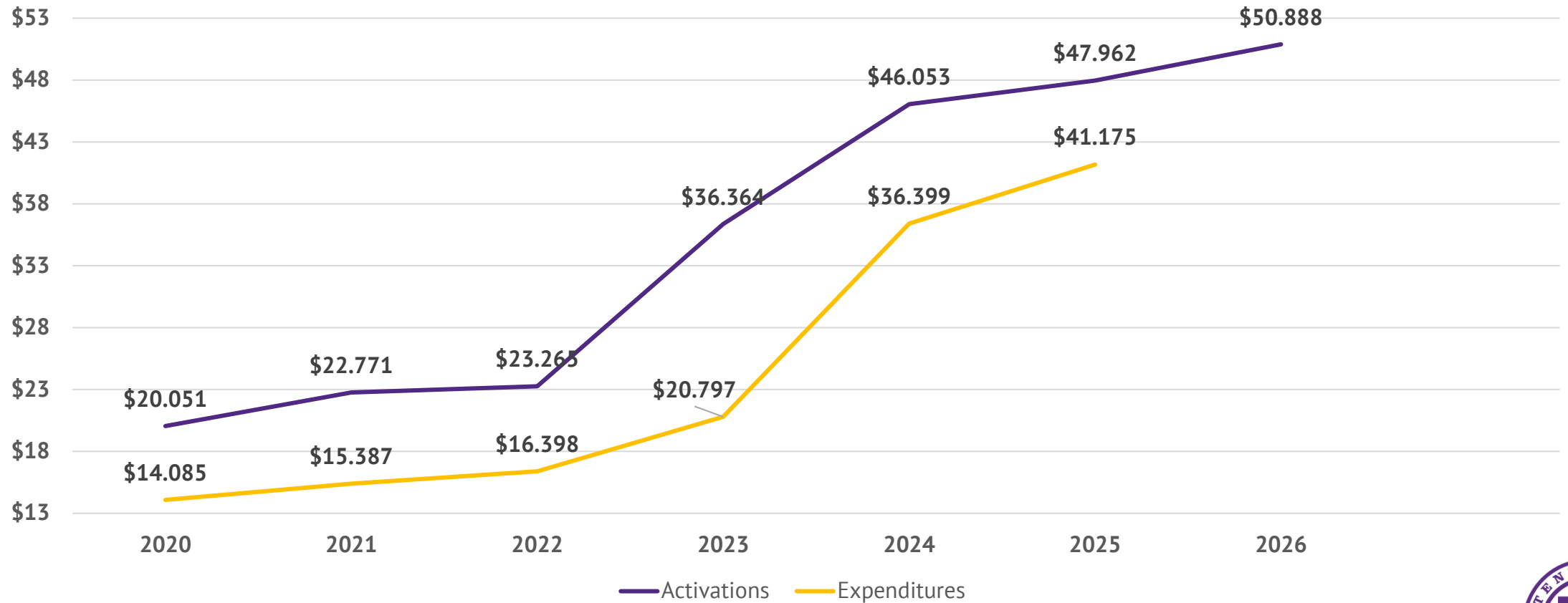
September 24, 2026



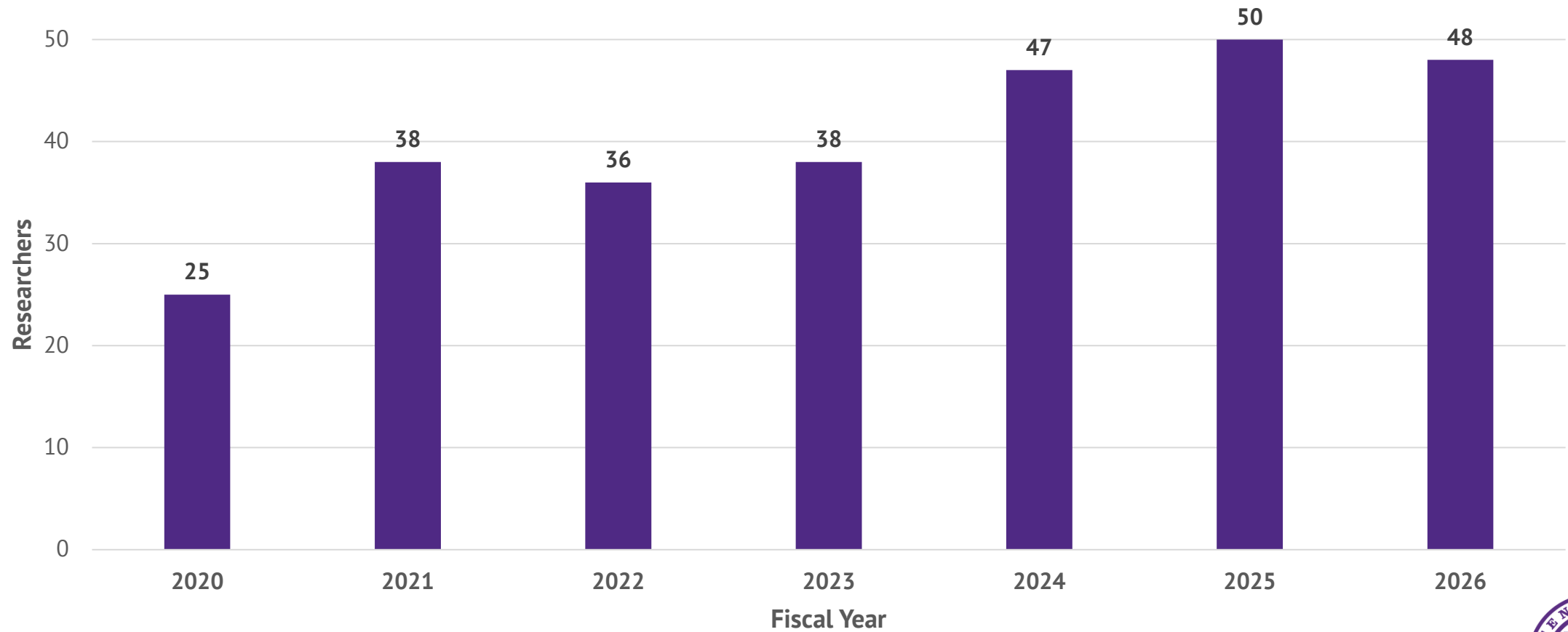
Research Funding Activations Reach Record \$50.888 Million



Research Expenditures Reflect Sustained Growth of Research Enterprise



Wings Up 100: Recognizing 48 Researchers Securing \$100K+ in External Funding



Research Making an Impact



Dr. Jeannette Luna
Arts & Sciences
NASA Artemis Geology Team



Dr. Rory Roberts
Engineering
Advanced Propulsion



Strategies for Sustained Research Growth

- Expand external research funding and sponsored program activity
- Strengthen alignment with federal and state priorities including nuclear, quantum, artificial intelligence, defense, advanced computing, and data center technologies
- Elevate scholarly and creative achievement through increased publications, exhibitions, performances, and other research outputs
- Cultivate the next generation of research leaders by expanding faculty engagement, mentorship, and leadership development
- Accelerate research translation and economic impact through industry partnerships, innovation, and commercialization



Economic Development: Rural Reimagined

- Active engagement in all 78 rural Tennessee counties
- Expanding presence across all 10 distressed counties
- Five new TTU-TNECD Rural Fellows deployed to serve distressed and at-risk communities
- Continued support for Hurricane Helene recovery and long-term resilience efforts
- 250+ businesses assisted (3,500 total)
- Tourism, community development, and location intelligence projects helping rural communities strengthen local economies
- More than 250 students engaged through rural-focused internships, research, technical assistance, and service-learning



