Colleen Fitzgerald, PhD, is the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity at North Dakota State University (NDSU), a public land-grant Carnegie R1 research institution. NDSU had record-breaking research growth in FY23, including $190.3 million in research expenditures and double-digit growth at 4 federal agencies (DOD, USDA, NSF and DOE).

Under her leadership, NDSU has won prestigious awards, including a National Science Foundation (NSF) I-Corps Hub and an inaugural NSF Regional Innovation Engine award for a statewide partnership in AgTech - one of only 9 Engines nationwide.

Prior to NDSU, Colleen worked extensively in the Southwest. She earned graduate degrees at the University of Arizona and worked for nineteen years in Texas higher education: Texas Tech University; the University of Texas at Arlington (Department Chair from 2008-2012); and Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi (Associate Vice President for Research). From 2015 – 2019, Colleen served as a rotating program officer at NSF, where she ran an interagency partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, among other duties.  As a scholar, she has been recognized as a Fellow of both the Linguistic Society of the America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her work supporting Native American language communities in revitalization and documentation.