



News Release

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Public Universities Engaged in Record Levels of Research

PIERRE, S.D. – Total research awards to the six public universities in South Dakota exceeded \$154 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30, a record setting year for research support in the higher education system.

The amount awarded was up more than \$44 million from the previous fiscal year, according to the South Dakota Board of Regents. This 38.9 percent increase in research awards comes as the result of 1,265 research proposals submitted by the six campuses.

“Our faculty deserves the credit for this record-setting year,” said Gary Johnson, system vice president of research. “Research does not cost; rather it pays dividends to the state. Competitive research awards recognize outstanding faculty members, faculty who embrace research not just for research’s sake, but who make substantial contributions in their fields of expertise and carry new knowledge back to students in the classroom. Research also provides quality jobs and workforce experience to research associates and student assistants.”

Jack Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO agreed. “Our research awards from external funding sources, such as the federal government and private corporations, have grown considerably in recent years. The amount now received nearly equals the level of state general support that is annually appropriated for the public university system,” Warner said.

“Research is an industry all in its own right, creating quality jobs and spinning off a positive economic impact within the communities and region where university researchers live and work,” Warner said. In the last fiscal year for which data were available, research expenditures in South Dakota totaled \$86.3 million, resulting in an annual economic benefit to the state estimated at \$124.3 million.

Research awards reflect total value of new grants awarded to universities within a fiscal year. Many grants are actually expended over more than one year, so the amounts spent annually from grants are also tracked as expenditures. Both measures are good indicators of research activity, and South Dakota institutions are seeing significant increases in both grant awards and expenditures, regents’ officials said.

(Chart attached shows total grant awards by institution FY09 and FY10.)

Research Grants – 2

