

South Dakota Board of Regents ISSUE Briefs

South Dakota Public Universities: Your Future is Here!

Issue No. 5 September 15, 2001

ISSUE: Great Plains Education Foundation Grant

The Great Plains Education Foundation, Inc. awarded a \$1,000,000 matching grant to the six public universities for FY01. This grant provided an incentive for the universities and their faculty members to seek grant opportunities that would enhance the instructional equipment available to their students. The funds were designated for replacement and improvement of academic, laboratory, and direct instructional and research support equipment.

BACKGROUND:

Great Plains Foundation

The Great Plains Education Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1999 as an outgrowth of the Student Loan Finance Corporation (SLFC), a South Dakota nonprofit corporation. The foundation is organized to further and aid education in South Dakota. A five member Board of Directors appointed by Governor Janklow governs the Foundation. The Board of Directors serves without compensation.

Needs of the Universities for Acquisition, Replacement, and Upgrade of Equipment

The technological needs of the academic programs within the regental system require on-going commitments of resources. Advances in technologies used for measurements, testing, and evaluation of core

academic concepts have the potential for significant improvements in the preparation of graduates. Students need access to hands-on experiences to comprehend fully concepts in classroom studies. The challenge of balancing access to the most effective academic laboratory equipment with the realities of limited budgets is often overshadowed by the increasing costs of maintaining out-of-date equipment. Leveraging dollars increases the capacity of the system to raise funds for capital upgrading and renewal. Rewarding institutional efforts to increase grant and contract resources for equipment for teaching and research creates an incentive for universities to place equipment renewal and upgrading as a priority focus in their contract and grant activities. By seeking funding for more equipment the individual faculty member can significantly enhance the curriculum. The matching grant by the Great Plains Foundation, Inc. provided a strong reason for faculty members to look first for opportunities that allowed them to increase resources needed to maintain and upgrade teaching laboratories and equipment.

Great Plains Education Foundation, Inc. Grant Allocations FY01

	Total External Grant Funding	Total Equipment Funding	Great Plains Grant Allocation
BHSU	\$ 939,200	\$ 269,414	\$ 67,35
DSU	\$ 1,811,894	\$ 1,625,195	\$ 82,10
NSU	\$ 2,194,593	\$ 1,171,782	\$ 95,26
SDSMT	\$ 7,121,702	\$ 5,193,570	\$ 171,03
SDSU	\$ 3,026,164	\$ 1,264,235	\$ 316,03
USD	\$ 8,766,130	\$ 1,072,836	\$ 268,20
Total	\$ 23,859,683	\$ 10,597,032	\$ 1,000,00

Impact of Grants on South Dakota Universities.

Universities depend on grants to fund research and to purchase equipment. Sources of grants vary as do the types of research projects they fund. Obtainment of grants is a competitive process in which the grant seeker produces a proposal that outlines what would be achieved with the funds if they were awarded. Organizations offering grants include private businesses, charitable organizations, and state and federal government. The Great Plains Education Foundation Equipment Match Grant was a 4:1 match of the portion of the grants that provided for equipment purchase. For example, Black Hills State University was awarded a \$112,935.00 grant from the National Science Foundation. The portion of the grant dedicated for equipment purchase was \$15,435.00. The 4:1 match by the Great Plains Education Foundation, Inc. awarded another \$3,859.00 towards equipment purchase. An example of Agencies who provided grants to South Dakota public universities that were matched by the Great Plains Education Foundation are listed for each university below.

BHSU—Grants matched by the Great Plains Education Foundation, Inc., included those from the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Aging, National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education.

DSU—Two private businesses awarded grants to Dakota State University that were matched by the Great Plains Foundation. Sun Microsystems awarded an equipment grant and the PeopleSoft grant was for software.

NSU—Grants were awarded to Northern State University from the U.S. Department of Education and the Knight Foundation.

SDSMT—Matched grants at School of Mines included those from Cargill Higher Education Initiative, the Boeing Company, the Stratasys Educational Grant, the Dow Corning Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Army.

SDSU—A diverse grouping of granting agencies had equipment funds matched at South Dakota State University. The agencies included: South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, National Science Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture, University of North Dakota, South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Defense, Larson Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, S.D. Corn Utilization Council, U.S. Fish and Wild Life Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Experimental and Applied Sciences Inc., Concord Division of Case-New Holland and the University of Wyoming.

USD—Grants were awarded to the University of South Dakota by the Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Sun Microsystems, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Education, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

CONCLUSION:

The equipment matching grant from the Great Plains Education Foundation, Inc. impacted the universities significantly. As a result of the grants additional computer technology and instructional equipment was purchased. The grant also made important research possible by helping purchase equipment needed to conduct experiments. In some cases students will have more technology equipment available to them that the universities might not otherwise have been able to provide, if they had had to wait for other funds to become available.