

South Dakota Board of Regents ISSUE Briefs

South Dakota Public Universities: Your Future is Here!

Issue No. 6 November 15, 2001

ISSUE: EPSCoR in South Dakota

EPSCoR funding from federal agencies, especially the National Science Foundation, has been instrumental in providing funding in partnership with the state of South Dakota to make the science, engineering, and technology infrastructure more competitive for federal research dollars.

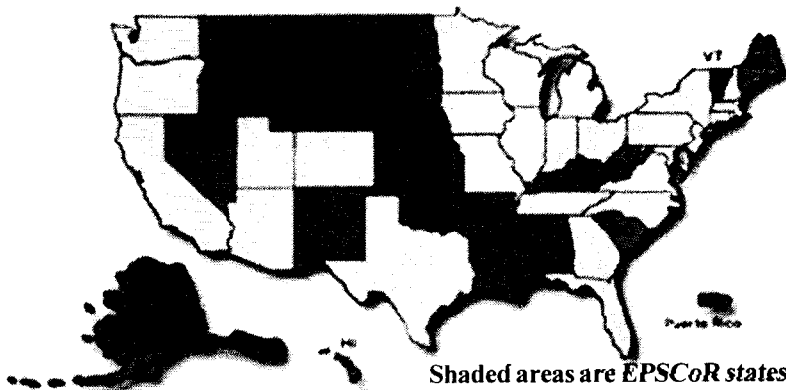
BACKGROUND:

EPSCoR

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is a joint program of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and several U.S. states and territories. The program promotes the development of the states' science and technology resources through partnerships involving a state's universities, industry, and government, and the Federal research and development enterprise. EPSCoR operates on the principle that aiding researchers and institutions in securing Federal research and development funding will develop a state's research infrastructure and advance economic growth. EPSCoR's goal is to maximize the potential inherent in a state's science and technology resources and use those resources as a foundation for economic growth.

Participation in EPSCoR

EPSCoR operates in those states that have historically received lesser amounts of Federal research and development funding. The program focuses on states that have demonstrated a commitment to develop their research bases and improve the quality of science and engineering research conducted at their universities and colleges. South Dakota joined EPSCoR in 1987.



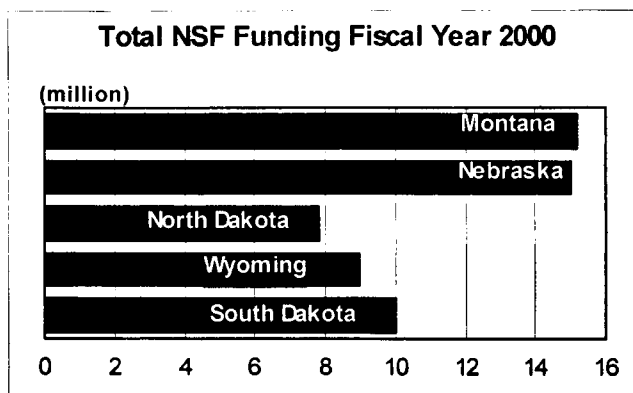
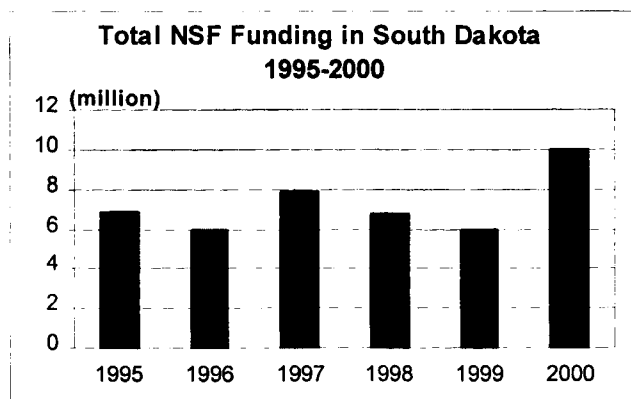
Shaded areas are EPSCoR states

South Dakota's three major academic research institutions, the University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University and the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology are the participants in the NSF EPSCoR program.

Participation in EPSCoR has helped South Dakota increase the federal research funding for scientific research. Grant projects have resulted in a wide range of scientific accomplishments in South Dakota. At South Dakota School of Mines and Technology a new polymer was developed that is designed to improve crash resistance in cars. Research at South Dakota State University has included identifying "value added" uses of soybeans and their products. And research in the area of detection and treatment of heart failure is conducted at the University of South Dakota.

EPSCoR

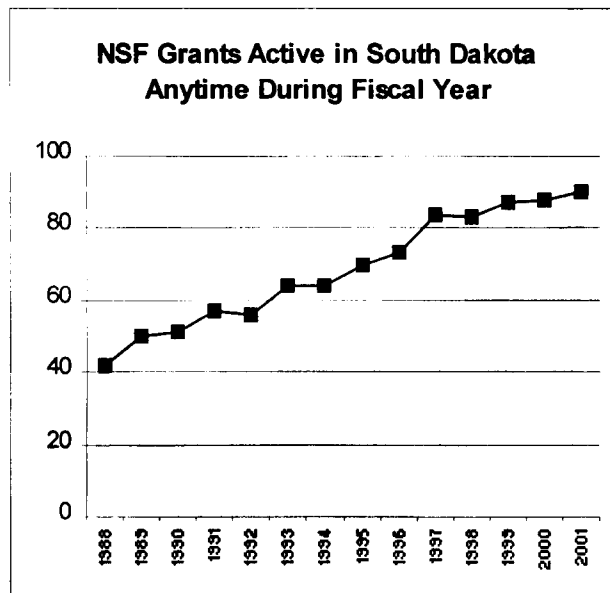
The chart below and to the left shows the total NSF grant funding dollars (in the millions) in South Dakota from 1995 to 2000. Funding in 2000 was the greatest amount ever received in South Dakota. The chart below and to the right shows the funding granted to South Dakota and surrounding states in fiscal year 2000.



South Dakota continues to see an increase in the number of active and funded NSF grants. Since 1989, the year South Dakota began EPSCoR funding, the number of active NSF grants in the state has increased 2.2 times. The chart to the right shows the number of active grants in South Dakota anytime during a fiscal year from 1988 to 2001.

In Fiscal Year 2000 South Dakota was awarded a total of 23 competitive NSF awards out of a total of 74 proposals. That is a funding rate of 31%.

From fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2000 the dollar award of NSF grants in South Dakota nearly double from \$5.653 million to \$10.173 million.



CONCLUSION:

South Dakota's current Research Infrastructure Improvement Grant targets the following three areas: biocomplexity, focusing on interdisciplinary studies of the Northern Great Plains; "Materials and Processes of the 21st Century," focusing on nanocomposites, photodynamics and microelectronic materials and devices; and molecular and cellular biology, focusing on bioinformatics and proteomics. In addition, the grant will establish a Scientific Visualization and Information Technologies Core, providing a scientific visualization network that the three participating universities will share. Research projects from these target areas support South Dakota's economic growth.