



News Release

Contacts: Robert T. Tad Perry, Executive Director
tadp@ris.sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Information & Institutional Research
janellet@ris.sdbor.edu

T: 605.773.3455

F: 605.773.5320

www.sdbor.edu

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New Centers at SDSMT Enhance Research Mission

BROOKINGS – The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved two new centers at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to enhance the school’s growing research mission.

In action Friday, the board approved a proposal by Tech officials to create the Center for Accelerated Applications at the Nanoscale (CANN) and the Institute for Multi-Scale Materials Development and Processing (IMM).

“We are excited about these new centers and their potential to create technology-based economic development opportunities and to create new knowledge,” Tech President Charles Ruch said. “There’s no doubt that both these research areas are important. Some experts predict that nanotechnology will result in a new Industrial Revolution. Similarly, IMM research could result in the materials we need for the next generation of products and industries.”

The South Dakota Legislature recently approved Gov. Mike Rounds’ request to create a stronger focus on research and development at the state’s six public universities. “Research projects increasingly focus on large complex questions and projects,” Regents President Harvey C. Jewett said. “By creating these kinds of organizational structures, our system will better manage the larger research and development efforts envisioned by the governor and legislators.”

CANN will focus on complex, multi-functional nano-materials, sensor fabrication and characterization, and the emerging science and technology in the field. Nanotechnology is an umbrella term that covers many areas of research dealing with objects measured in the nanometers. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter, or one-millionth of a millimeter. A human hair’s diameter measures about 200,000 nanometers. The ultimate value of nanotechnology is quality. By building products at the molecular level, they will last longer, work better, and push their potential to new levels.

IMM will coordinate and enhance research activities currently under way in the field of materials science.

“These two research areas meet the priorities of the state of South Dakota and federal funding agencies,” Ruch said. “We look forward to the exciting road ahead.”