



News Release

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Farrington Named System Research Vice President

PIERRE, S.D. – A Black Hills State University administrator, with a history of industrial research, developing patents, and commercializing them, has been tapped to lead development of a major statewide university research initiative.

The South Dakota Board of Regents announced Wednesday the appointment of Daniel Farrington as system vice president of research.

“Dan Farrington brings to this position all the qualities we were looking for. He has been a successful university researcher who developed his own patents and commercialized them,” said Regents’ Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “He understands research, and how universities and private business can work hand in hand to enhance a state’s economic future.

“Dan’s research work in the private sector will be especially useful as we pursue Governor Rounds’ goal to translate more university research into economic development,” Perry said. For 20 years, Farrington worked in high-level research positions at Merck Research Laboratories and at Pfizer Inc. in the animal health field.

Farrington has been at Black Hills State University since 1997, first as director of grants and special projects and most recently as the interim vice president for academic affairs.

Farrington holds an undergraduate degree in zoology from the University of Nebraska, a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Colorado State University, and a Ph.D. in veterinary microbiology and preventive medicine from Iowa State University. As a result of Farrington’s doctoral work at Iowa State, two patents for highly successful swine and canine vaccines were obtained, which have contributed more than \$3 million in royalties to the ISU Research Foundation.

During his tenure at Iowa State, Farrington’s laboratory pioneered new forms of testing for pneumonia in swine, and he collaborated with other scientists at Iowa State, the University of Nebraska, and Purdue on joint swine respiratory disease control projects.

Pfizer Central Research recruited Farrington in 1977 to work on developing new therapeutic agents for all major livestock species. He later headed Pfizer’s animal health product development department, as well as the developmental research group for Pfizer’s U.S.

agricultural division. While at Pfizer, Farrington was personally involved in research programs in swine and bovine respiratory disease, along with his administrative duties.

In 1988, he joined Merck Research Laboratories with responsibility for all animal science research field operations in North and South America. Over the next nine years, he was assigned additional responsibilities at Merck, while directing clinical programs that led to regulatory approvals for several new products.

“This appointment follows an extensive national search for the right candidate to advance university research initiatives at all six of our public universities,” Perry said. “We are delighted to have found that person right here in South Dakota—someone who brings the right mix of academic and research experience and who understands the technical transfer of research discoveries to the commercial sector. The Board of Regents is pleased to have Dan Farrington lead us in this significant new statewide endeavor.”

Perry also acknowledged the work of Royce Engstrom, vice president of research and dean of graduate education at The University of South Dakota. Since October, Engstrom has been on temporary assignment to the Board of Regents to develop the statewide research agenda for South Dakota’s public universities. “Dr. Engstrom was instrumental in putting the blueprint for this research initiative together,” Perry said.