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South Dakota Receives \$6.75 M from the National Science Foundation

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota's 2010 Initiative goal to become a recognized leader in research and technology development is gaining even more momentum with a \$6.75 million National Science Foundation EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) grant for the project "The 2010 Initiative: Science-Based Leadership for South Dakota."

Universities participating in the grant include South Dakota State University (SDSU), University of South Dakota (USD), South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T), Black Hills State University (BHSU) and Sinte Gleska University (SGU). The \$6.75 million will be dispersed throughout the next three years.

"This marks great progress for the 2010 Initiative," said Gov. Mike Rounds. "South Dakota's investment in research and technology development helped attract this grant, showing the value of our renewed commitment to research."

The project will strengthen South Dakota's research infrastructure and reinforce the state's research in Photo-Activated Nanoscale Systems (PANS), building on the research begun at the 2010 Research Centers of Excellence, which were created in 2004 at the request of Gov. Rounds. "The commitment Gov. Rounds made to the 2010 Research Centers planted the seed for South Dakota to be eligible for this award," said South Dakota EPSCoR Director Dr. James Rice.

The award will also support a variety of programs to stimulate interactions among the universities and the private sector, which in the end leads to job creation.

"In the short term, this award represents an opportunity for our young people to learn. In the long run, what is developed through this research will translate into business, and the foundation of future economies," said Gov. Rounds. "South Dakota is known as having the best environment for entrepreneurs. Progress like this grant from the National Science Foundation will build on that to continue to make South Dakota a place where entrepreneurs thrive," he added.