



SOUTH DAKOTA RANKS SIXTH South Dakota Sees Annual Increases In R&D Federal Funding

BROOKINGS –April 4, 2007—The most recent National Science Foundation (NSF) reports published rank South Dakota sixth nationally for highest annual percentage increase in their federal research and development (R&D) funding. Since 1997, South Dakota has seen a 152% increase in federal R&D funding, with a noticeable 59% increase between 2002 and 2004.

Much of South Dakota's economy has relied on its natural resources. However, changing global economies put pressure on agriculturally centered states like South Dakota to invest in technology-based economic development.

"South Dakota is confronted with the reality of globalization of technology industries. Traditionally, we have depended on our natural resources: agriculture, ranching, forestry, and mining for economic growth," said Scott Meyer, System Vice President of Research for the South Dakota Board of Regents. "The future of our state depends on technology-based economic development through innovation, talent, and investment capital." James Rice, Director of the South Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Program noted, "These increases are an indication of the return that these investments in technology-based economic development research infrastructure development can yield."

South Dakota has been making strides to increase R&D within the state as indicated in Goal Three of the 2010 Initiative: become a recognized leader in research and technology development. Current strategies include an underground mine in Lead, South Dakota, developing research and technology infrastructure at universities, and improving South Dakota's national ranking for NSF funding.

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Source: Survey of Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions, FY 2004, Division of Science Resources Statistics, National Science Foundation. <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf07316/> (Table 5)