



News Release

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Individual researchers supported by start-up grants

PIERRE, S.D. – To stimulate more competitive research at South Dakota’s public universities, 15 faculty members have been granted a total of \$376,377 to support their individual research projects.

“This year’s grant competition focused in particular on research projects that have the potential to develop into commercial applications,” said Gov. Mike Rounds. “It is another example of how cooperative research efforts between public universities and industry can position South Dakota as a leader in research and technology development.”

This is the third year the state has awarded “seed grants” as part of Gov. Rounds’ strategy to build a higher level of competitive research at our public universities, said Scott Meyer, system vice president of research for the South Dakota Board of Regents. The seed grants support faculty researchers as they develop research programs to become more competitive for external grants and contracts. It also opens up new opportunities for faculty members to develop new ideas with commercial potential, Meyer said.

Gov. Rounds’ 2010 Initiative in economic development calls for the state to “become a recognized leader in research and technology development by 2010.” Since the launch of the 2010 Initiative, the state has been highly focused on the role university research can play in South Dakota’s economic development. “We have worked hard to expand academic research and to take advantage of new development opportunities arising from it,” Meyer said.

The seed grants complement other strategies South Dakota is pursuing to increase university-based research, such as the 2010 research centers and new doctoral programs in the sciences, engineering, and technology. It is important to increase research expectations and opportunities for existing faculty too, said Regents’ Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry.

“These grants provide funding for tenure-track faculty to focus more time on research,” Perry said. “The grants cover 25 percent of a faculty member’s salary for one academic year, plus one summer month’s salary.” Funding is matched by the faculty member’s university, so the researcher earns half time in the academic year and two summer months of salary to do research, starting in the fall. The award is intended to give the faculty member an opportunity to start a sustainable research program and to help build research capacity within their department.

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(List of grant awards is attached.)

2007 Individual Research Seed Grant Program

This is a listing, sorted by university, of faculty members who received a seed grant, the university department they work in, and their research topic:

Dakota State University

- Sreekanth Malladi, Business and Information Systems – *“Researching cryptographic protocol security under new and complex scenarios”*
- Barbara Szczerbinska, Physics – *“Theoretical study of neutrino-nucleus reactions relevant to solar, atmospheric and long baseline neutrino experiments”*
- Stephen Graham, Business and Information Systems – *“Mapping among Disparate Ontologies for Physics Education”*

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

- Lance Roberts, Civil and Environmental Engineering – *“Reliability-Based Design Methodologies for Foundation Systems in Transportation Infrastructure”*
- David Dixon, Chemical and Biological Engineering – *“Cooperative Research Proposal for Development of Ultra Fine Powdered Rubber (UFPR) Prototype Equipment and UFPR Rubber/Polymer Formulations for Commercial Markets”*
- S. Phillip Ahrenkiel, Nanoscience and Nanoengineering – *“Growth Kinetics during Recrystallization of Amorphous Silicon”*

South Dakota State University

- Alan Young, Veterinary Science – *“Circulating Nucleic Acids Derived from Follicular Dendritic Cells as a Diagnostic Marker for Scrapie Pathogenesis”*
- Philip Hardwidge, Veterinary Science – *“Discovery and characterization of novel ETEC antigens for human vaccine development”*
- Youngjae You, Chemistry and Biochemistry – *“Novel Third Generation Photosensitizers Specific for Apoptotic Cell Death by Targeting Mitochondria”*
- Ying Fang, Veterinary Science – *“Antigenic characterization of bovine viral diarrhea virus: development of improved diagnostic tests for detection and differentiation type 1 and type 2 viruses”*
- Marek Malecki, Pharmaceutical Sciences – *“Cancer Suicide Gene Therapy”*
- Ron Utecht, Chemistry and Biochemistry – *“Reducing the Impact of Bovine Mastitis with a Novel Chitosan Formulation Administered at Dry-Off”*
- Sunho Lim, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – *“Development of a Reliable and Delay-Sensitive Medium Access Control Scheme for Vehicular Ad Hoc Networks”*
- Din Chen, Mathematics and Statistics – *“Developing a statistical mixed model and a full Bayesian integrated approach to identify the differentially expressed genes in non-replicated/small-sample microarray experiment”*

University of South Dakota

- Dongming Mei, Physics and Earth Science – *“Laser Isotope Separation Facility at Homestake for DUSEL Projects”*