



News Release

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Public Higher Education Benefits from Homestake Designation

PIERRE, S.D. – Today’s announcement from the National Science Foundation that the former Homestake Gold Mine is the preferred site for a deep underground science and engineering laboratory is a tremendous boon to public higher education in South Dakota.

“The Homestake lab will significantly strengthen South Dakota’s ability to stimulate cutting-edge research and create new knowledge,” said Regents’ Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “This project advances us light years in our quest to build the research infrastructure South Dakota needs to firmly anchor its future-oriented economy. Our public universities are excited about this major development, and we look forward to being active partners with the laboratory.”

Perry said a robust research industry is sustained in part by the availability of graduate students and research programs from the university system. “The deep underground lab at Homestake gives South Dakota and our universities the opportunity to expand and grow research and education in areas previously unavailable,” Perry said. “We intend to work hard to develop research initiatives and educational opportunities important to the work that can be done in this lab’s unique environment. Our scientists and educators are poised to be at the center of this research and to work with collaborators from other universities and laboratories,” he said.

Besides a positive long-term impact on higher education, Perry predicts the Homestake lab will also nurture K-12 science education in the state. Its presence should make careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields much more attractive to South Dakota students, he said. “There is a critical need in this country for more graduates in science and technology fields. With the kind of exciting research being developed at Homestake, in partnership with our public universities, it can only further students’ interest in these careers,” Perry said.

Noting that the fight to secure federal funding for the Homestake project continues, Perry said the public university system stands ready to help Gov. Mike Rounds, the state’s congressional delegation, and the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority in their efforts to finalize the lab’s development.