



News Release

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Science Building and Laboratory Upgrades Identified

RAPID CITY, S.D. – A Board of Regents’ committee has approved a comprehensive plan calling for new construction or upgrades to science facilities and laboratories across the public university system.

“Most of our universities are still operating Sputnik-era laboratories built when this country first started focusing its attention on science and technology in the late 1950s and early 1960s,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett. “Many of these science facilities are in poor condition and beyond renovation or repair. If we are to properly grow research here in South Dakota, improving the quality of science facilities and labs has to be a priority,” he said.

In their budget request to Gov. Mike Rounds, the regents are asking for \$74.5 million in state funding for these improvements, to be bonded over time through the South Dakota Building Authority. Another \$42.7 million in federal and private dollars would be needed to complete all the projects.

In advance of the legislature’s budget deliberations this winter, the regents’ budget and finance committee Thursday approved preliminary facility plans to address the science and laboratory needs across all campuses. This is a list of preliminary plans approved by the committee:

| Location | Building Project | State Funds | Other Funds |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| BHSU | Science Building | \$ 8,000,000 | |
| DSU | Habeger Science Center Renovation | \$ 6,000,000 | \$ 30,100 |
| NSU | Science Lab Facilities Upgrades | \$ 2,800,000 | |
| SDSMT | Chemistry/Chemical Engineering Replacement and Research Building | \$ 8,000,000 | \$ 10,000,000 |
| SDSMT | Paleontology Building | \$ 7,000,000 | |
| SDSU | New Science Building and Shepard Hall Renovations | \$ 8,000,000 | \$32,319,906 |
| SDSU | Lab Upgrade | \$ 8,000,000 | \$ 422,000 |
| USD | Arthur M. Pardee Laboratory Renovation | \$ 3,800,000 | |
| USD | Julian Hall Addition Renovation | \$ 2,500,000 | |
| USD | Churchill-Haines Laboratory Renovation | \$ 5,250,000 | |
| USD | Akeley Lawrence Science Center Renovation | \$ 4,250,000 | |
| Univ Center | Science Labs | \$ 900,000 | |
| Univ Center | USD & SDSU Simulation Center for use by Health Science Students | \$10,000,000 | |
| | | \$74,500,000 | \$42,772,006 |