



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Rapid City to Host Workforce Diversity Summit

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Strategies to diversify South Dakota’s workforce in critical science-related fields will be the topic of a statewide summit next month in Rapid City.

The South Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), in partnership with the South Dakota Board of Regents, will host the 4th annual Diversity Summit Feb. 6-7 at the Hotel Alex Johnson.

The summit is an education and outreach component of a South Dakota EPSCoR program funded by the National Science Foundation. The program’s goal is to help build a diverse and well-prepared science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce for South Dakota.

“This summit provides an opportunity for students, faculty, and private-sector employers to gain a greater understanding of the challenges and opportunities that under-represented students from all backgrounds face in pursuing STEM careers in South Dakota,” said Jack Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO.

This year’s theme is “The 2020 Vision: Engaging Talent Across South Dakota.” Representatives from higher education and industry will address such topics as Building STEM Preparation– Education and Opportunities; Exposure to Careers and Benefits Pursuing STEM Careers; Organizational Diversity in School and Industry; and Community Diversity and Governance.

Registration for the event is available at <https://www.stemregistration.com/sd/epscor>. For more information, contact Phillip Huebner at phillip.huebner@sdbor.edu or Mj Powers at mj.powers@sdstate.edu.