



News Release

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Eight University Researchers Earn State Research Grants

PIERRE, S.D. – Eight public university faculty members have been awarded competitive state research grants through the South Dakota Board of Regents.

“Since 2005, competitive research grants awarded to our university researchers provide them with the opportunity to acquire the equipment and graduate research staff necessary to further their research projects,” said Paul Turman, the regents’ vice president of research and economic development. “These projects support undergraduate and graduate students, strengthen the universities, and ultimately the state by generating commercial activity.” he said.

Forty-six grant proposals were submitted; eight were funded for a total of \$ 432,232. For the second year, more faculty members were given an opportunity to compete for funding by splitting the fund pool into two different award levels.

All but one of the eight research projects are newly funded. Second year funding was received for research by the University of South Dakota’s Dr. Samuel Sathyanesan.

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Black Hills State University

- Dr. Daniel J. Asunskis, Chemistry – “Assessing the Toxicity of Emerging Nanomaterials for Renewable Energy” (Grant Amount: \$24,934)

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

- Dr. Soonkie Nam, Civil and Environmental Engineering – “Improvement of Engineering Properties of Soil with Agricultural By-products” (Grant Amount: \$25,000)
- Dr. Purushotham Tukkaraja, Mining Engineering – “Preliminary Analysis of Surface Mine Inversion Dispersion Techniques through Numerical Simulation Studies” (Grant Amount: \$25,000)

South Dakota State University

- Dr. Trisha Jackson, Geography – “Farming with Biochar: Quantifying Gains in Natural and Financial Capital” (Grant Amount: \$86,777)

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Research Grants – 2

- Dr. Reinaldo Tonkoski, Electrical Engineering – “Development of Reliable and Sustainable Microgrids” (Grant Award: \$77,788)

University of South Dakota

- Dr. Samuel Sathyanesan, Basic Biomedical Sciences – “Development of a Therapeutic Trophic for Neuropsychiatric Disorders” (Grant Award: \$99,953)
- Dr. Zhenqiang ‘Rick’ Wang, Chemistry – “Mimicking Protein-Ligand Binding in Synthetic Supercontainers” (Grant Award: \$63,218)
- Dr. Meghann Jarchow, Biology – “Prairies in Multifunctional Landscapes: Understanding the Effects of Disturbance and Plant Phenology” (Grant Award: \$24,965)

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