



News Release

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Six University Researchers Earn State Research Grants

(Editors, News Directors: This news release, originally issued on June 28, omitted the name of an awarded researcher at SDSM&T and his research project. A revised news release is reissued today in its entirety to correct that omission.)

MADISON, S.D. – Six public university faculty members have been awarded new competitive state research grants. The South Dakota Board of Regents was briefed on the projects at its recent meeting in Madison.

“The immediate benefit is to help these researchers advance their individual projects, but the long-term goal is to strengthen the state’s capacity for research and technology development,” said Paul Turman, the regents’ vice president of research and economic development.

Turman said the grant process was extremely competitive this year, with 52 proposals received and six funded for a total of \$438,375. This is the eighth consecutive year that the state has financially supported grant awards to build higher levels of competitive research in the public university system.

Four of the six research projects are newly funded. Two of the grant awards, to South Dakota State University researchers Qiquan Qiao and Katie Bertrand, fund a second year of their research projects. The research grants allow universities to acquire equipment, hire staff, pay faculty, and support undergraduate and graduate students.

A significant return on investment is evident with this program, as the five researchers receiving awards last year submitted other grant proposals related to their research totaling about \$10.9 million. Of that amount, \$872,758 in funding has been awarded to date, with about \$4.5 million still pending final award notification.

2012 Competitive Research Grant Program

These are the six faculty members who received a 2012 Competitive Research Grant, their department, research topic, and grant amount awarded:

Research Grants – 2

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

- Adam French, Atmospheric Sciences – *An investigation of a non-traditional severe storm evolution: Isolated supercells evolving from squall line*; \$54,011
- Randy Hoover, Electrical/Computer Engineering – *Increasing Autonomous Capability Through Collaborative UAV/UGV Swarms*; \$85,310

South Dakota State University

- Katie Bertrand, Natural Resource Management – *Year 2 Continuation Proposal: Will climate change influence population dynamics of native fish in Great Plains streams? Enhancing a modular experimental stream system to increase competitiveness and research capacity at SDSU*; \$49,629
- Qiquan Qiao, Electrical Engineering – *Year 2 Continuation Proposal: Novel Polymers for Highly Efficient Organic Solar Cells*; \$50,000
- Cheng Zhang, Chemistry/Biochemistry – *Design and Synthesis of Electro-Optic Chromophores for Spatial Light Modulation*; \$99,425

The University of South Dakota

- Khosrow Rezvani, Basic Biomedical Sciences – *Regulation of p53 stability and function by the UBXN2A, a new strategy for cancer therapy*; \$100,000