

Contacts: Jack R. Warner, Executive Director and CEO  
[jack.warner@sdbor.edu](mailto:jack.warner@sdbor.edu)

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications  
[Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu](mailto:Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu)

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

[www.sdbor.edu](http://www.sdbor.edu)

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## University Research Projects Benefit from Legislative Support

PIERRE, S.D. – Higher education officials say about \$920,000 from a special performance improvement fund created by state lawmakers in the closing days of the 2011 session will go to improve research capacity at all six public universities in South Dakota.

Proposals were solicited to leverage the one-time state dollars with non-state grant funding obtained by the campuses. Earlier this fall, a review committee composed of regents, state legislators, and research administrators selected proposals to be funded.

“We were particularly interested in projects that required matching dollars in support of federal or private research proposals, for new faculty start-up funds, or to help pay for scientific equipment that would enhance the capabilities of our campus research laboratories,” said Gary Johnson, system vice president of research for the South Dakota Board of Regents. “We were pleased to see the high caliber of proposals submitted.”

The projects funded include:

- \$200,000 to **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology**, half for new faculty start-up funds and the other half directed to major research equipment upgrades.
- \$200,000 to **South Dakota State University** to develop innovative high-density, plasma-based thin-film deposition technology for the development of high-efficiency, low-cost silicon solar cells. This proposal leveraged \$320,000 in industry matching money.
- \$200,000 to **The University of South Dakota** to develop research infrastructure for germanium crystal growth supporting research at the Sanford Underground Research Facility. Laboratory construction costs will be matched with \$504,845 from institutional and third-party cost sharing.
- \$184,875 to **Black Hills State University** for scientific laboratory equipment to support a growing research program in biomedical research, genomics, and deep underground science.
- \$80,000 to **Dakota State University** in support of a post-doctoral researcher at the Center for Information Technology Excellence, which includes an industry match provided by Chenega Logistics to support a second post-doctoral researcher.
- \$55,000 to **Northern State University** to acquire scientific laboratory equipment to support science faculty at NSU and their undergraduate researchers.