

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Planning, Governance, and Resource Development

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – F
DATE: June 26-27, 2019

SUBJECT

BioSNTR / EPSCOR Project Overview

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

N/A

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

In 1980, the National Science Foundation (NSF) formed the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (now called the *Established* Program to Stimulate Competitive Research “EPSCoR”). The EPSCoR program is designed to assist states to establish a self-sustaining academic research enterprise with the competitive capability that will contribute to the states’ economic viability and development. Eligibility to participate in the NSF EPSCoR program is based on the jurisdiction’s level of NSF research funding. South Dakota was recognized as an EPSCoR jurisdiction by NSF in 1987. There are currently 28 eligible NSF EPSCoR jurisdictions. SD EPSCoR’s mission is to strengthen research and education in STEM across South Dakota to increase science literacy and drive science-based economic development. SD EPSCoR helps build South Dakota’s research infrastructure and increases capacity to successfully compete for federal funding. Today many federal agencies have developed similar programs, including NASA, DOE, DoD, NIH, etc.

In 1986, the South Dakota Research Excellence: A Critical Hallmark (REACH) Committee was formed to serve as a liaison organization between South Dakota institutions of higher education, the NSF and other federal organizations, private science and/or engineering research organizations, state government and industrial and commercial interests. There are currently 35 voting members and 9 non-voting ex officio members on the REACH Committee, the names of which can be accessed [here](#). The current NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII), Track I award, which totals \$20M and spans from FY15 – FY19, is centered on the BioSystems Networks / Translational Research ([BioSNTR](#)) project, led by Adam Hoppe (SDSU). BioSNTR is focused on bridging the gap between academia and industry to create a bio-economy in South Dakota through impact science, via a distributed research initiative based on a systems biology approach and translational research model that advances biotechnology.

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INFORMATIONAL ITEM

BioSNTR was developed with funding from the NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 award (approx. \$10.3M), in addition to a South Dakota Research Innovation Center award from the State of South Dakota (approx. 11.8M). BioSNTR is currently made up of roughly 40 academic researchers across the state, utilizing state-of-the-art imaging and bioinformatics.

The RFP for the next NSF EPSCoR RII Track I award was released last year and the REACH Committee selected the SD Biofilm Science and Engineering Center (SDBSEC), led by Rob Winter (SDSMT), to serve as the science core for South Dakota's next proposal. The proposal was subsequently submitted in August and we are currently awaiting formal notification from NSF, which is anticipated to be forthcoming in the very near future.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Adam Hoppe, Principal Investigator of the BioSNTR, will provide a presentation to the Board highlighting the accomplishments and successes of the BioSNTR over the last five years.

ATTACHMENTS

None