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# **From Ideas to Action – Turning Collaboration into Investment**

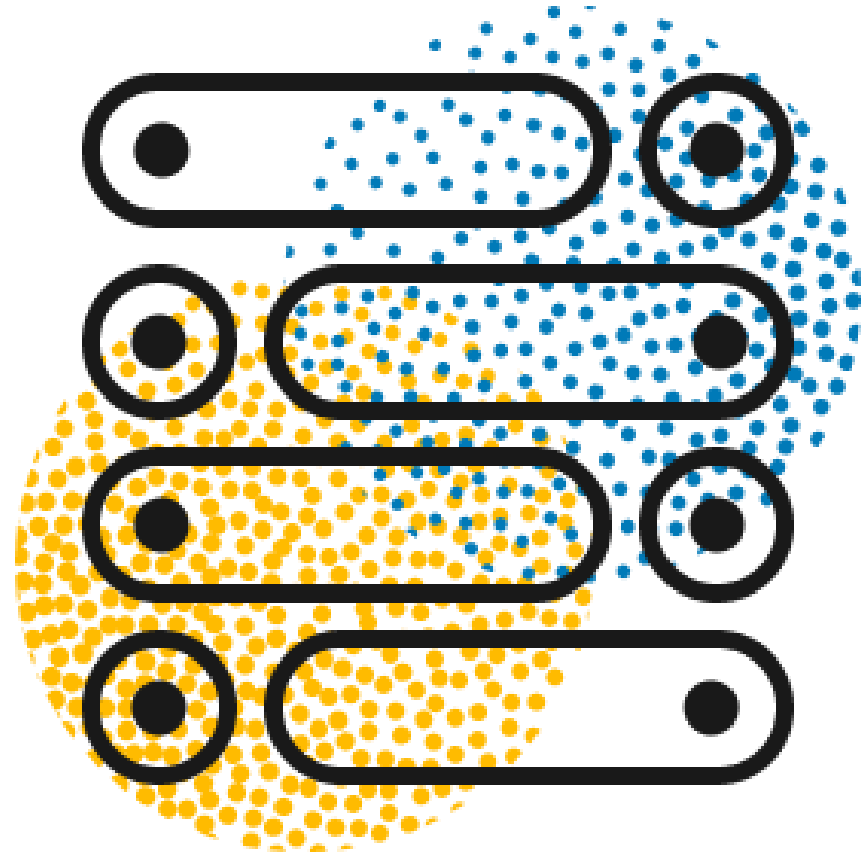
Michelle Kane  
SURF Foundation  
November 4, 2025

Move from great ideas to  
actionable, fundable  
collaborations that support  
South Dakota's Science &  
Technology Plan.



# Our Roadmap

- Funding Mechanisms
- Gallery Walk & Prioritization
- Breakouts
- Report-Outs
- Wrap-Up



# Funding as an Ecosystem

Pathway	What It Means	Consider
<b>Federal and State Programs</b>	NSF, DOE, EPSCoR, NASA, GOED, E-RISE, etc. Core funding that drives discovery and infrastructure.	Could two or three institutions co-write a proposal that builds shared capacity or training opportunities?
<b>Industry Partnerships</b>	Collaboration with companies focused on innovation, technology, or workforce development.	What challenge could your research help solve for a local or regional company?
<b>Philanthropy / Foundations</b>	Funders like Simons, Sloan, Heising-Simons, or Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) who support visionary or community-based science.	What story or outcome would inspire a philanthropic partner?
<b>Advocacy and Policy Alignment</b>	Visibility with Regents, GOED, legislators, or regional economic groups to raise awareness and alignment.	Who could advocate for your project and help it gain visibility?
<b>Shared Resources</b>	Leveraging SURF's facilities, university labs, and student training programs to enhance proposals.	How can SURF host, convene, or connect partners to make this idea more fundable?




# Gallery Walk & Group Work Instructions

Select ideas with the most energy, overlap or potential for statewide collaboration.



## *From Idea to Investment* worksheet



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**From Idea to Investment**

Group Collaboration Worksheet – Higher Ed Connections Workshop

Facilitator: Michelle Kane | Session: Action Steps – Turning Collaboration into Investment

November 4, 2025

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**1. Table Idea Overview**

Idea Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Focus: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

Needs / Challenges: \_\_\_\_\_

*Clarify the purpose of your idea. What are you trying to achieve, and what challenges need to be addressed?*

**2. Why This Idea Matters**

Why would funders, partners, or the state care about this idea?

*Think about its real-world relevance, impact on South Dakota, and/or connection to the Science & Technology Plan.*

**3. Who Could Be Involved**

List potential collaborators, partners, or contributors who could help make this idea successful.

*Include individuals, institutions, agencies, or industry partners.*

Partner / Institution	Type of Role or Contribution
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____


\_\_\_\_\_ve forward or get funded?  
\_\_\_\_\_n that provides space, credibility,

\_\_\_\_\_ening space

\_\_\_\_\_ut)  
\_\_\_\_\_is idea?

\_\_\_\_\_rd right away, and who will lead it?

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**Investment Pathways**

System: Where Could Your Idea Fit? Identify which funding pathways your project.

Examples	Possible Partners / Opportunities
Programs (NSF, DOE, GOED, RISE)	_____
Partnerships (POET, Sanford Health, Hills Energy)	_____
Foundations (Simons, Sloan, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative)	_____
Alignment (Board of Regents, economic development leaders)	_____
SURF facilities, student training, collaborative events)	_____

\_\_\_\_\_e multiplier. Which combination of these pathways could move your idea

Location: \_\_\_\_\_



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### Funding as an Ecosystem: Quick Reference Guide

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# Highlights from Each Group

- Your big idea
- A funding or partnership pathway
- One actionable step
- Biggest takeaway from your group discussion





Our next big  
discovery starts  
with today's  
conversation.







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