SANFORD UNDERGROUND RESEARCH FACILITY

Closing Remarks

Jaret Heise, Science Director
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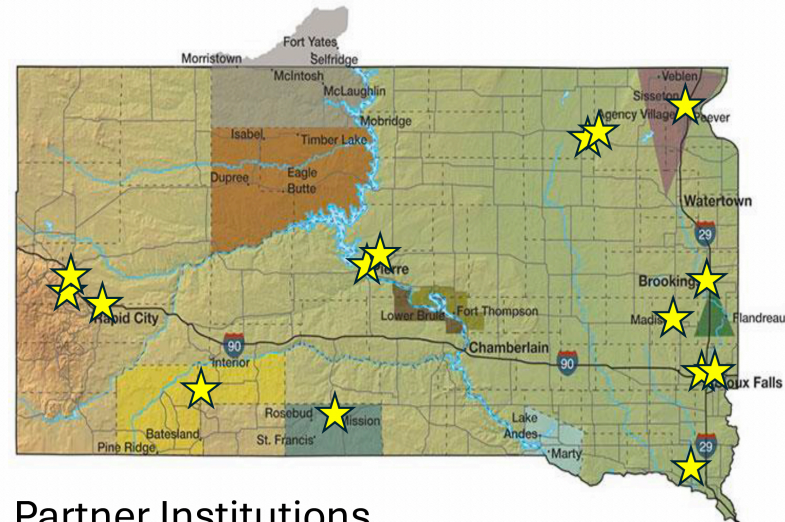
Higher Education Connections Workshop
Nov 2-4, 2025

Higher Education Connections Workshop

From Deb Wolf's Opening Remarks:

- **Your institution plays an essential role** in building and advocating for a strong STEM education, research and innovation ecosystem in South Dakota. The **connections between higher education, research, and industry are vital** — and your participation here reminds us that the **SD Science & Technology Plan** isn't just an academic framework. It's a **roadmap for how education, research, and industry can work together to drive innovation and opportunity across our state.**

- Being an EPSCoR state gives us both a **challenge and an opportunity**. The <u>challenge</u> is that we must be **intentional** — no one institution can do it alone. The <u>opportunity</u> is that **collaboration** becomes our competitive advantage. *(Example of success: SD E-CORE grant with 15 institutions)*

Partner Institutions

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- One of the lenses for our time together this week is how we **communicate the value of fundamental research** — not just to each other, but to legislators, funders, and community members who make this work possible.

- For some of you, SURF is already a partner in research or education. For others, this may be your first time engaging with us. Either way, **SURF exists to be a connector — a catalyst for science, engineering, and education across South Dakota, our nation and the world**.

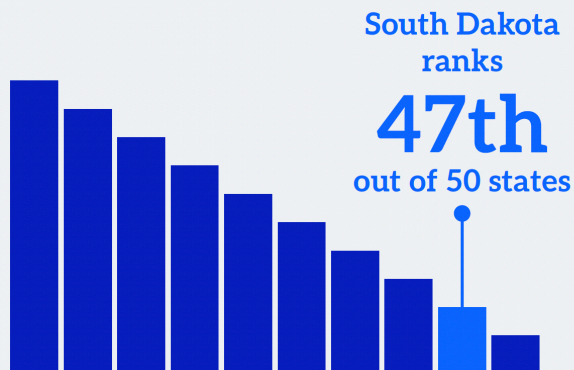# South Dakota Science & Technology Plan
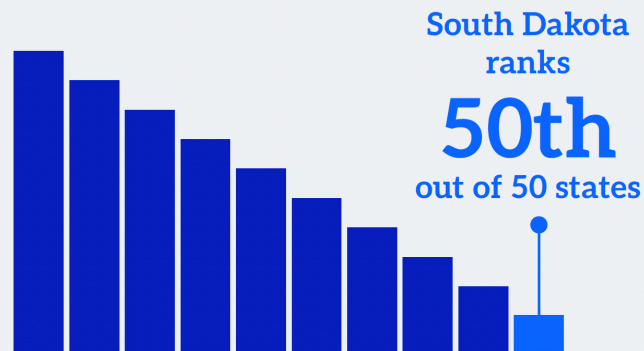
Vision:

- South Dakota invests in **research and commercialization** to drive economic growth and diversification and to educate a highly prepared **STEM workforce**.

Strategy with 5 Initiatives:

1. Advance technology commercialization

2. Increase research & commercialization with system-level improvements

3. 'Grow our own' initiative to expand STEM workforce

4. Invest $50M (over 10 yrs) in university-industry research & faculty

5. Leverage federal investment to build public-private partnerships

South Dakota ranks
47th
out of 50 states

Business R&D

South Dakota ranks
50th
out of 50 states

Academic R&D

https://sdepscor.org/sd-science-technology-plan

South Dakota **2030**
Science and Technology Plan

SD EPSCoR
RESEARCH. EDUCATION. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
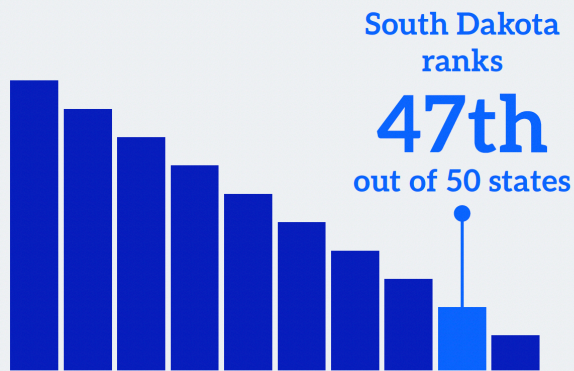
RTI
INTERNATIONAL

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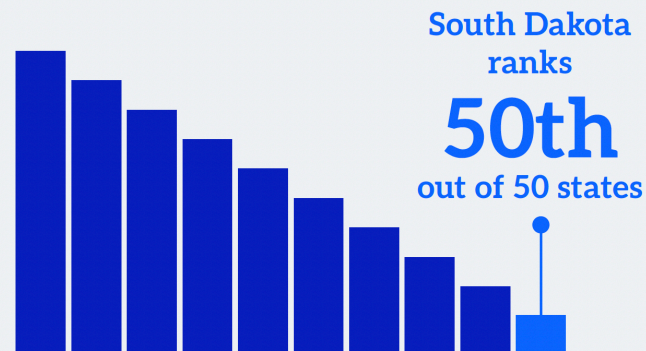
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High-Priority Research in 7 Areas:

- Computational Science
- Cybersecurity
- Fermentation & Bioprocessing
- Health, Food & Nutrition

- Environmental & Biological Sciences
- Materials
- **Deep Underground Science**

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Thanks to all for your contributions and a successful workshop!