



THE INSTITUTE
FOR UNDERGROUND SCIENCE
AT SURF



**SANFORD
UNDERGROUND
RESEARCH
FACILITY**



3rd Annual

Quantum Partnership Workshop

July 22-24, 2026

Welcome

Hosted by **The Institute for
Underground Science at SURF
and Great Plains Network.**



Bringing together partners from throughout the region
to advance quantum science and technology.



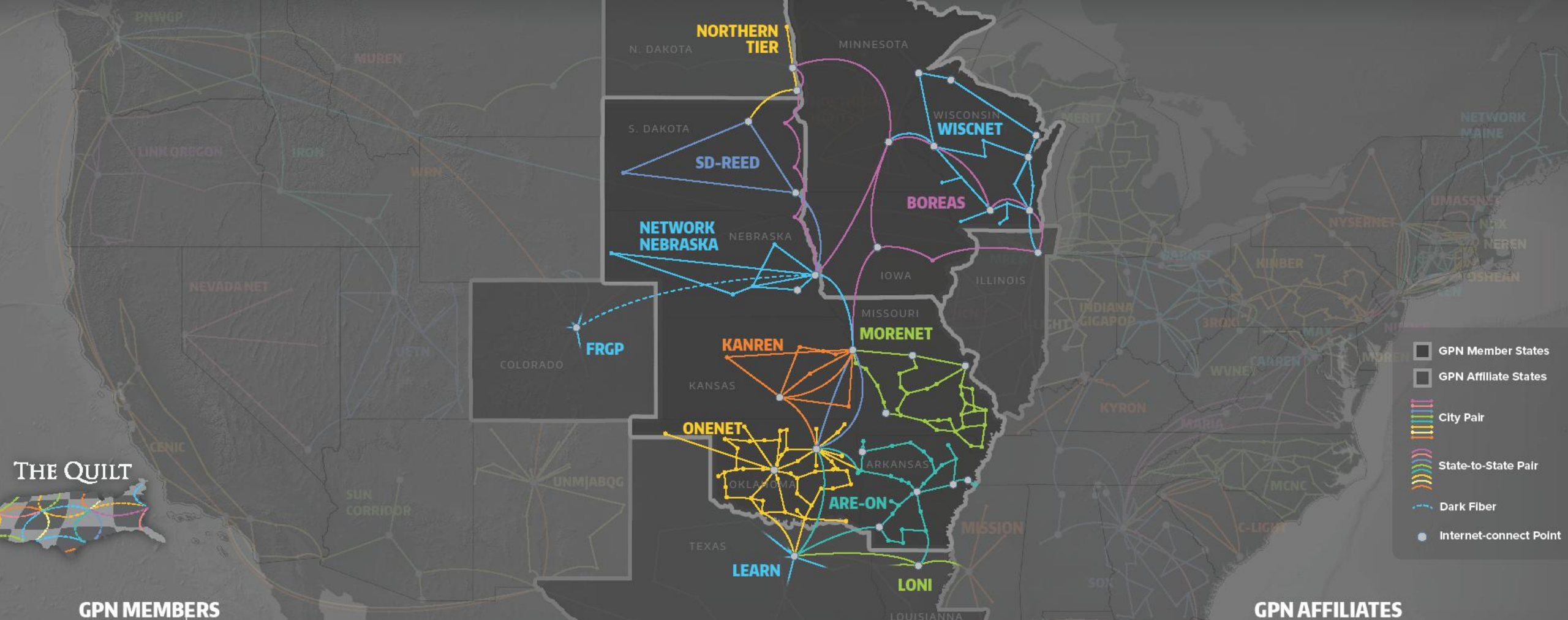
Regional Quantum Planning

- Connect with leaders in quantum research, industry, and education
- Build new collaborations and identify funding opportunities
- Shape regional priorities for quantum education and workforce development
- Participate in collaborative planning to develop a shared quantum strategy
- Tour South Dakota Mines' Quantum Center and hear about their initiatives
- Leave with new partnerships, actionable ideas, and a roadmap for future collaboration



GPN MEMBERS & AFFILIATES

GREAT PLAINS NETWORK



GPN MEMBERS



GPN AFFILIATES



Introductions

- Name, Title, and Institution
- One person from each institution provide a brief update



Quantum Science Research

Jaret Heise, Sanford Underground Research Facility

DongMing Mei, University of South Dakota

Parthasarathi Nag, Black Hills State University



Quantum Education and Workforce Development

Mary Bell, Dakota State University

Chip Byers, Missouri Research and Education
Network (MOREnet)

Tom Coffin, University of Arkansas, Little Rock EAC



Partner Grant Updates and Collaborative Funding Opportunities



Group Photo

Outside in front of Davis Ring

Reception

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.





OUR MISSION

UNITE THE **GLOBAL**
UNDERGROUND SCIENCE
COMMUNITY TO
INSPIRE DISCOVERY.





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Thursday, July 23, 2026



Keynote: Emily Easton, Chicago Quantum Exchange

Director of Education & Workforce



Quantum Network Initiatives

Stony Brook University

Eden Figueroa

Jacie Chen

Tsering Lodhen



Preparing for the GPN Quantum Strategy Session

Eden Figueroa, Stony Brook University



Breakout Groups



Group 1: Quantum Networking and Computing

(Facilitator: Mickey Slimp; Reporter: Tom Coffin)

Group 2: Quantum Education and Workforce Development

(Facilitator: Brent Van Aartsen; Reporter: Chip Byers)

Group 3: Quantum Research

(Facilitator: Jaret Heise, Reporter: Parthasarathi Nag)





Report Out

Group 1: Quantum Networking and Computing
(Reporter: [Tom Coffin](#))

Group 2: Quantum Education and Workforce Development
(Reporter: [Chip Byers](#))

Group 3: Quantum Research
(Reporter: [Parthasarathi Nag](#))



Reminder:

Friday workshop begins at **9:15 a.m.**
at **South Dakota Mines**, Rapid City





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Friday, July 24, 2026



Nonlinear Optical Properties of 2D Quantum Materials

Steve Smith, South Dakota Mines



Building a GPN-Wide Quantum Strategy

Facilitator: Mickey Slimp, Great Plains Network



Recap and What's Next in Quantum

Facilitator: Mickey Slimp, Great Plains Network



Reminders:

- Complete Survey
- Next Year's Workshop dates
Tentative: July 21-23, 2027
- Lunch in Rapid City immediately following workshop (optional)





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