



News Release
Contact: Mark Lee
2205 Career Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57107
E-Mail: mark.lee@SDUniversityCenter.org
Telephone: (605)367-5380
Fax: (605)782-3231

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University Center to Explore Research Park Development

Sioux Falls, SD – Tuesday, August 21, 2007 - The South Dakota Public Universities and Research Center (University Center) has issued a request to local and national developers expressing interest in entering into a partnership to develop a proposed University Center Science and Technology Park.

Master developer agreements are frequently used by universities and others to build research, science and technology parks. Resulting agreements usually include a schedule to develop the land into a park with the master developer having responsibilities for both infrastructure and building development. Importantly, master developers, with experience and specialized expertise in research, science and technology parks, take the lead in marketing the park and recruiting research and technology based tenants to the park. Master developer agreements include guidelines as to the appropriate types of research and related activities that will be allowed to occupy the park.

The Board of Regents has set a precedent for this approach with a long-term ground lease agreement with Growth Partnership, Inc. to develop the 125 acre SDSU Innovation Campus in Brookings, which will be South Dakota's first university affiliated research park. Groundbreaking for the Innovation Center incubator and headquarters building is scheduled for October.

University Center is beginning construction of two buildings on land in northwest Sioux Falls. One building is a more traditional classroom facility while the other is the Center for Graduate Education and Applied Research (GEAR). GEAR will be the anchor research and incubator building on what Regents believe could be a dynamic and expanding science and technology park that will be a major asset in driving science and technology-based economic development in South Dakota.

“Our mission at University Center is to focus on the needs of Sioux Falls and provide the human capital needed to support the economic development engine that is Sioux Falls,” said Mark Lee, Executive Dean. “The partner universities and the Board of Regents believe the time is ripe for an emphasis on science and technology-based economic development associated with all public universities and the University Center,” Lee concluded.

The South Dakota Public Universities and Research Center is a partnership including all six Regental Universities. Today, five institutions have programs authorized for delivery at University Center – The University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, and Black Hills State University. Over 3,200 individual students were served last year at University Center and over 50 programs are available fully in Sioux Falls.

For more information contact Mark Lee at 605-367-5380 or mark.lee@SDUniversityCenter.org.





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