

## Innovation Campus, South Dakota State University



*Teresa McKnight, Executive Director,  
Innovation Campus*

The \$5.3 million Innovation Center building that opened last fall near the South Dakota State University campus is the first sign of the mammoth Innovation Campus — South Dakota's first university-affiliated research park.

The first phase of the 28,000-square-foot multi-tenant building that houses an incubator and the park's administrative offices is already 70 percent full with nine tenants. A second phase that will add an additional 32,000 square feet to the building could begin construction in the next year or two dependent on funding.

The park's second building, a \$6.5 million 30,000 square-foot seed technology lab, is also under construction and is expected to be complete by July 2010. Innovation Campus officials are also working with an unidentified company to build an additional 20,000-square-foot building. Another potential project could lead to the construction of an additional 40,000-square-foot building.

The 125-acre Innovation Campus could eventually grow to include 50 to 60 buildings, nearly 100 companies and as many as 3,000 combined employees. Teresa McKnight, Innovation Campus' executive director, has a good model to emulate. She was director of a 173-acre park at Utah State University before leaving for South Dakota State and the opportunity to start a research park from scratch.

"Our overall vision is creating something unique in the state of South Dakota that can be a model for others to follow," says McKnight, who is also executive director and CEO of the SDSU Growth Partnership, a nonprofit responsible for the park's development. "This is substantial for the state of South Dakota. It won't just benefit the city of Brookings; it will also benefit the whole state and other academic institutions."

### **Innovation Campus**

College: South Dakota State University

Location: Brookings, SD

Opened: 2008

Completed buildings: 1

Acres: 125

Tenants: Iberdrola Renewables, Enterprise Institute, United Development, NetCare Administrators, Swedlund Holdings, International Plant Nutrition Institute, Chiropractic Associates, South Dakota State University Growth Partnership, Innovation Campus administrative office