

Shovels break ground for SDSU Innovation Center

By UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
South Dakota State University

Officials broke ground before a crowd of local, state and national representatives earlier this month for the first building on the SDSU Innovation Campus research park east of 22nd Avenue.

The Innovation Center will be the first building on the 29-lot, 125-acre campus designed to house offices and laboratory space for business and industry researchers, start-up and established companies, students and entrepreneurs.

President David L. Chicoine told those attending that as the state's "largest and only high research activity, Ph.D.-granting university," the Innovation Campus will give an edge in today's highly competitive global economy.

That edge, the president said, comes from four key building blocks:

1. Collaborations and partnerships that leverage unique opportunities;
2. Best-of-class facilities where people can research and commercialize science activity;
3. Connectivity through broadband networks at, or above, industry standards; and
4. Providing work space to the best and brightest students, faculty, scientists, entrepreneurs, capital providers, managers and leaders.

"Together we can build these factors that will enable us to create a prosperous future and be competitive in the global economy," Chicoine said.

The Innovation Campus and the new Innovation Center, he said, "are symbols of what we can accomplish together. Through research and the commercialization of research results and corporate partnerships, we will realize our



Courtesy photos



Above: SDSU, state, county, city and private sector officials turned shovels for the first building on the Innovation Campus, a manifestation of the innovative Growth Partnership between the groups. Left: Teresa McKnight, CEO of the SDSU Growth Partnership and executive director of the Innovation Campus, described how other university research parks contribute to local, regional and national economies. McKnight came to SDSU from Utah State University, where she managed a 173-acre university research park.

potential as the valued asset for creating a prosperous future."

Teresa McKnight, CEO and executive director of the SDSU Innovation Campus, gave examples of what happens at research parks across the country.

She said 4,450 companies and organizations are in research parks employing over 350,000 fulltime employees and over 25,000 students and interns. These research parks impact the U.S. economy sig-

nificantly to the tune of \$31 billion.

The SDSU Innovation Campus is poised to join that effort with the completion of the Innovation Center, a 28,000-square-foot building that will house administrative offices and incubator space for entrepreneurs, cutting-edge enterprises and student learning.

Other speakers representing components of the Growth Partnership that organized the research park included Brookings

Mayor Scott Munsterman, County Commissioner Don Larson and District 7 Representative Larry Tidemann.

Staffers from Senators Tim Johnson and John Thune and U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin also brought greetings.

For more information on the Innovation Campus, contact McKnight at 605-690-5363 or teresa.mcknight@sdstate.edu.

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