



ND STaR
North Dakota Space Training and
Research

NASA Workforce Development
Initiative

Initiative Goal: To address Aerospace/NASA workforce development issues in the state of North Dakota by providing Summer Research Fellowships to undergraduates from ND.

Project focus and design:

- 1) Provide 3-month summer fellowships for undergraduates from North Dakota colleges to do research at the two research intensive universities in North Dakota.
- 2) Research projects had a link to an appropriate NASA center or enterprise.
- 3) Travel funds were provided for students and advisors to visit the appropriate NASA center or enterprise and interact with staff there will be provided through the initiative.
- 4) A two-day conference “Space on the Prairie” was held 10-11th of August 2003. The key components of this were:
 - a) Presentations of research and visit experiences by students funded by the initiative;
 - b) Poster presentations of other NASA sponsored research and education initiatives in North Dakota;
 - c) Visit of Gregg Buckingham from KSC to North Dakota to represent NASA centers and give a presentation about NASA Education initiatives and the role of NASA centers;
 - d) Discussion with state legislative and educational leadership about their workforce and economic development plans; and
 - e) Webcasting of all sessions through space.edu (UND Space Studies distance education portal; <http://www.space.edu>).
 - f) Attendance and featured presentations by Governor John Hoeven (R-ND) and Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND)

The conference facilitated dissemination of the initiative and NASA related activities and issues to elected officials, to all ND higher education institutions, including two-year and tribal colleges, some K-12 schools, and to the State Capitol.

The participants had the opportunity to meet with and discuss their work with elected representatives