



**Application Form and Instructions**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Daniel Swets Robotics Materials Award (2020)**  
**NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium**  
*(This Announcement Released on November 12, 2019)*  
Application Deadline: **January 9, 2020** – For U.S. Citizens Only



The NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium offers the **Daniel Swets Robotics Materials Award(s)** for a total of up to \$13,000 in memory of the unprecedented enthusiasm and vision that Dr. Dan Swets brought to the state of South Dakota in the field of robotics. Dr. Swets, founder of the South Dakota Robotics Association (which has since evolved into other robotics organizations), saw the value of robotics in recruiting students into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at an early age. He strove to provide those opportunities for students throughout their educational career. Not only does this help young people in science and engineering in general, but it also produces high quality students that NASA is looking toward to help fulfill its mission. Dr. Swets served on the Management Team of the SD Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) for 15 years. SDSGC provides this annual award to a South Dakota teacher or educator of robotics who will carry on these traditions in memory of Dr. Swets and the three other gentlemen who tragically lost their lives in an airplane crash on December 9, 2011; Mr. Kevin Anderson, Mr. Joshua Lambrecht, and pilot Mr. Brian Blake, while on their way from Sioux Falls to Rapid City, SD to assist with a robotics program.

This funding is open to South Dakota teachers/educators of U.S. citizenship who either have: A) taken robotics training or plan to take robotics training and want to begin new robotics programs and teams, or B) have sustained robotics programs/curriculum in their classrooms or at their schools that are in need of additional support due to growth in the number of student participants or aging robotics materials. Please be aware that preference will be given to: 1) applications that would start new robotics programs and teams (e.g., at a school that didn't have one before), as opposed to augmenting existing robotics programs, 2) robotics programs at the Middle School level, and 3) applications from teachers/educators who have not won prior robotics or other teacher awards provided by SD Space Grant. That said, previous award winners are certainly eligible to apply. Information on SDSGC is available online at <http://sd.spacegrant.org> and questions can be directed to Tom Durkin at 605-394-1975 or [Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu](mailto:Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu)

**Letter of Intent and Application Form:** Please submit a one-page Letter of Intent attached to the completed application form on the following page. The Letter of Intent must describe the robotic materials that you request to purchase (with a cost estimate up to a maximum of \$5,000 including shipping) and explain how the materials will be used for educational purposes. Computer purchases are not allowed. If you already have robotics programs/curriculum in your classroom or at your school, please briefly describe that. If you haven't yet taken robotics training, but plan to take it, please describe when and where you plan to do that. Usage of the robotics materials requested under this grant may be collaborative among a group of educators who plan to share the materials. **Please include the company name, address, phone number, and/or website address of the robotics supplier where the materials can be ordered.** *(Note: The robotics materials will be purchased directly by SDSGC and either delivered to, or picked up by, the award recipient. **Please include in your Letter of Intent the specific "item numbers" or "Product ID" numbers of the robotics materials that you wish to order from whichever website or catalogue you are using. This will facilitate ordering.** Non-federal cost sharing (i.e., in-kind "matching funds") is not a requirement, but it is welcome if it can be provided.*

**Application Submission and Deadline:** One completed copy of: A) the following application form, and B) the Letter of Intent, must be received as a **single electronic file** (Word or PDF format preferred) via email by **January 9, 2020** to:

Tom Durkin, Deputy Director, SDSGC  
Email: [Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu](mailto:Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu)

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. The award winner(s) will be announced at the February 6-8, 2020 SD STEM Ed Conference (the joint science and math teachers' conference) in Huron, SD, with information on winning projects posted at <http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/DanSwetsRoboticsAward.html>

**Reporting and Evaluation:** Winners will need to submit a brief report and complete an evaluation survey provided by SDSGC Program Evaluator Steckelberg Consulting, LLC, at the end of their first project year on the educational impacts of their robotics program, including the number and ages of students reached.

**Application Form**

Daniel Swets Robotics Materials Award for 2020  
NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School or Educational Organization \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

If you have received robotics training in the past, please indicate when and where, and the name of the trainer/instructor, if you recall

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously received Space Grant Consortium funding? Yes No

By my signature or typewritten name below, I certify that I am a citizen of the United States.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (or typed name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date