

NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium



SD Space Grant Consortium

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Inspiring and Preparing the Next Generation of Explorers and Innovators

SPACE GRANT BACKGROUND AND VISION

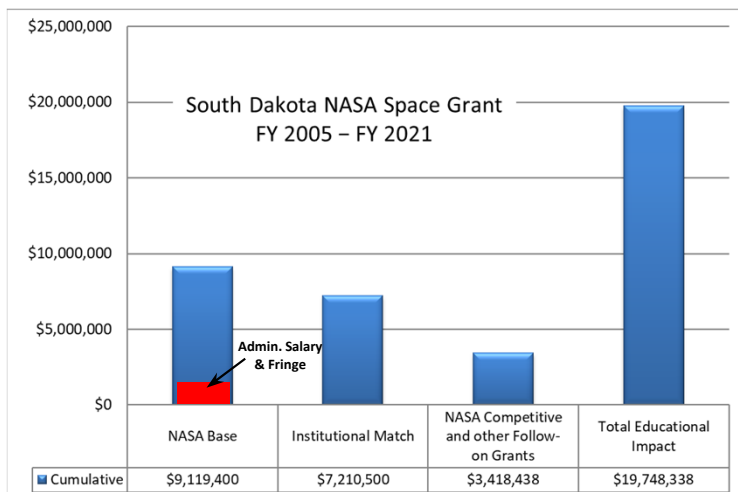
- ❑ The South Dakota Space Grant is one of 52 state-based consortia authorized by Congress and supported by NASA's Office of Education with the goal of maintaining the nation's leadership in aeronautics and space exploration.
- ❑ Established in 1991, the vision of the South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) is "to expand opportunities for all South Dakotans through education, research, and public service in the fields of aerospace, earth science, and supporting disciplines in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)."

MAJOR SPACE GRANT PROGRAMS

- ❑ Fellowships for college students in STEM degrees
- ❑ Internships at NASA centers and aerospace industry
- ❑ College robotics and interdisciplinary engineering design teams
- ❑ Seed grants for innovative research and education projects (Project Innovation Grants)
- ❑ K-12 teacher grants and student/classroom opportunities including precollege robotics
- ❑ Diversity targets in all educational programs consist of at least 15% minority participants and 40% female

FUNDING AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- ❑ Non-federal matching funds and competitive follow-on grant awards provide a return on investment of 1.2 dollars for every dollar of NASA base funding (2005-2021)
- ❑ Only 14.2% of 2021 base funding went to program administrative salaries and benefits



FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS (2005 – 2021)

- ❑ 869 undergraduate and graduate students at 10 public, private and tribal colleges in South Dakota directly received over \$2.69 million in Space Grant funds
- ❑ 17.8% of funded students are minority, mostly Native American, and 39.3% female
- ❑ 108 student internships: 74 at NASA Centers, 32 at aerospace industries (some paid by industry), 1 Navy, and 1 State
- ❑ Funding allows students to participate in NASA center and aerospace industry internships, participate in multi-disciplinary student led design team competitions, perform NASA STEM-related research on campus, present findings at professional conferences, and earn their degrees
- ❑ Longitudinal tracking shows that 96% of students supported by Space Grant from 2006-21 who have taken their next step are working in STEM careers or pursuing advanced STEM degrees

PRECOLLEGE

(2021 program year only)

- ❑ 761 teachers reached through teacher training, NASA STEM experiences, and NASA educational material
- ❑ 17,939 precollege students participated in Space Grant instructional/enrichment activities
- ❑ 430 middle school students (45 teams across South Dakota) competed in SD FIRST LEGO League and BEST Robotics sponsored by Space Grant in 2021
- ❑ All eight of the originally planned Space Grant-supported Women in Science conferences in 2021 were cancelled due to COVID

SEED GRANTS FOR RESEARCH & EDUCATION (2005 – 2021)

- ❑ 65 Project Innovation Grants totaling \$1,156,581 awarded to nine SDSGC affiliates for research and education projects that align with NASA and SGS GC goals
- ❑ 78 robotics and NASA-STEM precollege teacher grants (\$257,848)

IMPACT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- ❑ Measureable outcomes with national and state-level evaluation and tracking of performance
- ❑ Low administrative costs—approximately 1.0 FTE
- ❑ On a per-capita basis, South Dakota's NASA base funding is seven times the national average