South Dakota State University named an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University

BROOKINGS, S.D. – July 10, 2014 – South Dakota State University has been designated an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and its Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness and Economic Prosperity.

South Dakota State is being honored as one of 14 universities that work with public and private sector partners in their states and regions to support economic development through a variety of activities, including innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development and community development. South Dakota State received the designation after conducting a thorough self-review with outside stakeholder input and subsequently submitting an application that went through a rigorous independent review process. With this year’s class, South Dakota State is one of 30 public universities that hold the honor.

The designation for South Dakota State builds on its land-grant mission and ties directly to its IMPACT 2018 strategic plan goal of driving economic growth from the commercialization of research-derived innovation and new technologies, according to President David Chicoine.

"The designation provides a direct recognition by peer land-grant and public universities of the impact that South Dakota State has on the economic growth and development of South Dakota and the region and the promise investments in our university have to continue to improve the economy by creating jobs and wealth," Chicoine said. "This recognition validates the value of the collaborative work across the university and with our partners and the very positive effect this work has, and will continue to have, on state and regional economies."

The IEP designation will be valid for a limited period, requiring application for re-designation after five years.

APLU’s Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness and Economic Prosperity (CICEP) is continuing to lead efforts to help public universities plan, assess and communicate their work in local and regional economic development using the CICEP “Economic Engagement Framework” (http://www.aplu.org/CICEPFramework). The framework includes tools for university self-assessment, metrics determination and economic impact analysis.

Innovation and Economic Prosperity University designees conducted an institutional self-study and solicited input from external stakeholders. Each university designee identified three areas of institutional strength in economic engagement and described programs in these areas. Designees also identified areas for growth and improvement for their university’s economic engagement enterprise and developed an improvement plan. This work demonstrated a
commitment to continuous learning and improvement in this kind of engagement vital to universities and their regional partners.

Applications for the designation were scored by a panel of reviewers representing other universities and affiliated organizations, including the Association of University Research Parks, the University Economic Development Association, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the National Association of System Heads and the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance. Scoring was based on a range of criteria emphasizing universities’ development of their economic engagement enterprise, their planning efforts around economic engagement, strategic communications around these efforts and participation in encouraging economic engagement among peer institutions.

South Dakota State has been a leading force in the state’s entrepreneurial growth. In November 2009, a year after the university formed the state’s first Technology Transfer Office (TTO), it begin collaboration with South Dakota Innovation Partners (SDIP), an early-stage venture capital firm focused on science- and technology-based innovations. Since 2008, the TTO has licensed 42 research-derived technologies. Eighteen of these technologies have formed the base and expansion of seven different startup companies, launched by SDIP. The TTO also has developed master agreements for facility use, sponsored service agreements and a standard test-only material transfer agreement for industrial partners and is currently signing more than 200 agreements with industry partners each year.

South Dakota State now qualifies to submit an application for APLU’s 2014 Innovation and Economic Prosperity University Awards, which will be given out at the association’s annual meeting in November. The awards include an “IEP Connections” award, recognizing the university that is doing the most to build connections between categories of economic engagement—innovation and entrepreneurship, talent development and social, community and cultural development. “Best in class” awards will also be given in each category of talent, innovation and place.

About the APLU
APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization representing 234 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations. Founded in 1887, APLU is North America’s oldest higher education association with member institutions in all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, four U.S. territories, Canada and Mexico. Annually, APLU member campuses enroll 4.7 million undergraduates and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1.3 million faculty and staff, and conduct $41 billion in university-based research.

About South Dakota State University
Founded in 1881, South Dakota State University is the state’s Morrill Act land-grant institution as well as its largest, most comprehensive school of higher education. SDSU confers degrees from six different colleges representing more than 175 majors, minors and specializations. The institution also offers 29 master’s degree programs, 13 Ph.D. and two professional programs.

The work of the university is carried out on a residential campus in Brookings, at sites in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City, and through SDSU Extension offices and Agricultural Experiment Station research sites across the state.

For more information:
SDSU News • www.sdstate.edu