

Delaware EPSCoR Initiative*

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- The National Science Foundation's
Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

What is EPSCoR?

- Top five states in academic R&D attract 50% of the funding;
- Bottom twenty states in academic R&D attract 10% of the funding (includes DE)

Academic Products:

- *Intellectual infrastructure*
- *Facilities infrastructure*
- *Quality workforce*

consistently rank as critical success factors in Advanced Technology-based economic development.

Federal Government programs to enhance academic infrastructure

- NSF led EPSCoR – statewide academic collaboration/economic development
- NIH Institutional Development Awards (IDeA) – human health



Overview:

- A federally funded program to build academic research capacity
- 25 states and two territories participate across the nation
- Program began in 1980; DE became eligible in 2003
- Major program sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF)
- Minor programs with other agencies: defense, energy, EPA, NASA, USDA.
- Delaware participates in NSF, Defense, Energy and EPA programs
- Delaware will receive ~ \$4-5 Million/ year in program funds; ~ 80% NSF.
- Delaware provides 50% cost share for major NSF program (\$3 M over 3 years).

More than money! Other requirements/ benefits include:

- Oversight by a state committee (catalyst for the S&T Council)
- Partnership with state on economic development
- Collaborative statewide academic network
- Participation across a national network
- Focus on sustainability



Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) program

- Focused on Complex Environmental Systems and Ecosystems Health
- Statewide partnership (DBI, UD, DSU, DTCC, Wesley); institutions participate in alignment with their mission.
- Five key components: research/education, scientific instrumentation, K-12 outreach, ethics and public policy and economic development. Started 4/25/04
- Lead by faculty at each institution; managed by DBI
- \$9 Million over 3 years (\$6 Million NSF/ \$3 Million State cost share)
- Goal is to create a nationally recognized research center responsive to state and national needs.

Action Item: Schedule a S&T Council Program Review

Benefits to Delaware from Federal Infrastructure Programs

Financial

- ~ \$50 Million since 2000 (largely NIH Infrastructure Funding)
- ~ \$30 Million in additional commitments through 2010
- ~ \$15 Million in 2005 (NIH and NSF)
- Will be enhanced by improved competitiveness in regular grants

Major Sustainable Research Efforts

- Human Health
- Complex Environmental Systems