USD Discovery District Announces Anchor Tenants

The USD Discovery District and the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) have announced that SAB Biotherapeutics and Alumend will become the innovation community’s anchor tenants.

The Discovery District, a planned corporate and academic research park adjacent to the University Center in northwest Sioux Falls, will provide access to research facilities and infrastructure for research business development and foster collaboration for the commercialization of new technologies.

The $30.9 million project will encompass not only a large multi-tenant research building, but also South Dakota’s first commercial cGMP (Current Good Manufacturing Practice) biotherapeutics manufacturing facility, and is being made possible by an historic strategic and financing partnership among the State of South Dakota, the University of South Dakota (USD), the City of Sioux Falls, the Board of Regents and the business community through Forward Sioux Falls.

“GOED has long supported the rapidly emerging biotech industry in South Dakota, and facilitated a significant financing package including state loans and grants, in addition to USD Foundation participation, to ensure a home not only for SAB Biotherapeutics and Alumend, but additional space for future biotech companies emerging in the state or choosing to relocate here, too.

The first building will be an 84,000 square-foot multi-tenant research laboratory, office and biopharmaceutical manufacturing space. In addition to primary long-term tenants SAB Biotherapeutics and Alumend, the building will house the USD Discovery District offices and offer 20,000 square-feet of open leasable space. Sioux Falls-based Architecture Incorporated and architecture leader Perkins + Will have been selected as the architects for the building. Tetrad Property Group, an experienced research park developer, will manage the project for the Discovery District.

The second building is a 42,000 square-
Office of Research Partners with Hanover Research

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is pleased to announce its continued partnership with the experts at Hanover Research. Hanover has provided two years of exceptional services to researchers on campus, and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) is looking forward to a third year. ORSP has recently opted to renew a consulting contract with Hanover Research, after receiving positive feedback from faculty and staff that the consulting organization was able to help strengthen grant proposal submissions. Hanover Research is a consulting organization which provides grant writing, proposal review and research development services to academics in all disciplines. Courtesy of ORSP, individual researchers and departments may utilize Hanover’s services free of charge. These services include finding funding for research projects and proposal development support. ORSP encourages all researchers with an interest and need to take advantage of this expert resource. Working with Hanover is a hands-on, collaborative process. Therefore, each project takes up to two weeks and requires advance notice. Please contact ORSP@usd.edu or call 605-677-5370 to schedule a proposal development session with Hanover, or if you would like them to put together a funding landscape report.

USD Discovery District, continued

foot commercial biomanufacturing production facility. SAB plans to use the building for its commercial biotherapeutics production operations. Funding for the facility was granted to the district by the GOED, and will also create an evergreen fund to seed future Discovery District projects.

SAB Biotherapeutics is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing human antibody therapeutics using its first-of-its-kind immunotherapy platform leveraging transgenic cattle (TcBovine™). The company will occupy approximately 41,000 square-feet of the first building with its corporate headquarters, research laboratories and cGMP biomanufacturing suite and plans to occupy the second building with its commercial manufacturing operations.

Alumend LLC, Avera’s wholly owned applied research and development company, will establish its corporate office and research laboratory in the district, occupying approximately 7,500 square feet. Alumend scientists have developed Natural Vascular Scaffolding (NVS) therapy, a novel drug/device combination for the treatment of peripheral vascular disease (PVD). They will continue their research and development of other uses of the NVS chemistry with potential applications in cancer, orthopedics and cosmetics at the Discovery District.

The USD Discovery District continues to work with the City of Sioux Falls on long-term infrastructure development for the Discovery District, but more immediately on the streets, utilities, streetscape and parking needed to utilize the 3.7-acre site for SAB Biotherapeutics and Alumend.

“The biotech companies based here will impact our community with new jobs for our residents and new recruits to the area, but it’s also going to impact the world with the breakthroughs and the ideas and the products that will come from right here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota,” said Mayor Paul TenHaken of Sioux Falls.

“There’s still work to be done,” added Naser. “Our goal is to break ground this fall and have the first building completed in 2020. This project is three times larger than we anticipated 12 months ago. It’s a significant milestone to start building in the Discovery District and exciting to have such a large and impactful inaugural project to launch South Dakota’s first innovation community.”
**Biomedical Engineering Faculty Receive NSF Award**

USD biomedical engineering professors Etienne Gnimpieba, Ph.D., and Carol Lushbough, M.A., have been awarded a National Science Foundation I-Corps Teams Program grant from the NSF to help transition technology to the marketplace.

The award funds an innovative technology named the Resource Enhancement and Advanced Discovery System (READS), designed to assist users in locating the most relevant analytic tools and data using natural language capabilities.

The patent-pending technology will allow end-users to discover, reuse, validate, share and exchange knowledge related to data and analytic tools, which will greatly enhance users’ ability to answer challenging questions. The USD team is currently focusing on customizing this tool for geoscientists, financial analysts and biotechnologists.

The I-Corps Teams Program grant is designed to assist the university’s researchers in developing a focus beyond their academic laboratories, and is intended to advance the economic benefits of NSF-funded research by transitioning science to the marketplace.

Assisting Gnimpieba and Lushbough will include a team of two student entrepreneur leads, Riley Paulsen and Tayler Hoekstra, and a business mentor, Kevin Hildring. This work is also being supported by the new non-profit group Dakota Research and Consulting Organization, or DRACO, for management and business development.

**Shakespeare Festival Delivers 'Richard III'**

Faculty and students from the University of South Dakota took the stage for a production of "Richard III" during the annual South Dakota Shakespeare Festival (SDSF) June 7-10.

In this gripping tale of political intrigue, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, entices us to join him on his treacherous climb to political power. It is the SDSF’s first history play.

The SDSF is a professional non-profit theatre company supported in collaboration with USD’s College of Fine Arts and Department of Theatre. In keeping with the SDSF’s mission of accessibility, all performances and programs were free and open to the public.

Performances were held in Vermillion’s Prentis Park, with live music, food and beverage vending and arts workshops for youth.

A special Scholars in Conversation event was hosted by Brett Gamboa (Dartmouth College) and Darlene Farabee (University of South Dakota) as they let performance-goers in on some of the secrets of this great play.

SDSF also offers a robust array of outreach programming in the summer and throughout the year. This summer the SDSF is partnering with the Sanford Senior Care Center, Vermillion’s SESDAC, Flandreau Indian School, USD’s Upward Bound, and the Minnehaha Juvenile Detention Center, offering special programming to engage a wider audience base with the benefits and joys of Shakespeare and live theatre.

For more information about Richard III, the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival or to get involved, please visit: www.sdshakespearefestival.org.
USD's Wellness Center Ranked Highly for Best Campus Recreation Center

The University of South Dakota's Wellness Center placed 44th in a College Consensus ranking for the best campus recreation centers in the nation.

The Wellness Center ranked highly for its 61,000 square feet of campus recreation. According to the consensus, the Wellness Center’s best features are its pool and the climbing wall. The climbing wall, which is the highest in South Dakota at 38 feet, has 4,300 hold combinations as well as nine rope stations.

Credit Hour Interviews Professor on Hearing Loss and PTSD

Assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, Lindsey Jorgensen, Ph.D., spoke about her research into hearing loss and its association with blast-exposed trauma in the first of two episodes on post-traumatic stress disorder.

“Lindsey’s story is unique in that her research has a personal connection,” said Michael Ewald, host of the podcast Credit Hour. “Her husband, who served in Afghanistan, reported hearing loss after returning home from combat. Traditional hearing tests suggested his hearing was normal but Lindsey knew there was more to the story.”

“Audiology is a growing field, it’s a new profession relative to medicine.

There’s a lot we don’t know. It’s not just the ears that hear, it’s the brain,” said Jorgensen. “Communication with our loved ones, with our significant others and community is important to most people. They really want to be able to have those relationships, and communication is the way we have those relationships.”

Follow Credit Hour on Stitcher, Apple Podcasts, Google Play and usd.edu/podcast.
School of Health Sciences Committee Recognized

The School of Health Sciences’ Committee on Diversity, Inclusivity and Cultural Awareness has been selected by the USD President’s Council on Diversity & Inclusiveness as the recipient of the 2017-1018 Champion of Inclusive Excellence award. The committee was formerly called the Cultural Competency Committee.

Achieving inclusive excellence is defined by the USD President’s Council as those individuals and organizations on the USD campus that embrace diversity and embed equity and inclusion in policies, practices and processes. The School of Health Sciences’ Committee on Diversity, Inclusivity and Cultural Awareness was specifically recognized for its commitment to enriching the work of the health sciences school regarding inclusiveness in recruitment, course materials and school events.

The President’s Council on Diversity & Inclusiveness annually awards this recognition in conjunction with the university’s Office of Diversity.

Former Medical School Dean to be Inducted to SDHOF

Dr. Rod Parry, dean of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine from 2004 to 2012 and a regional and national leader in public health and medical education as well as one of the first pulmonologists to serve South Dakota, will be inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame at an honors ceremony to be held Sept. 7-8, 2018.

The Canistota, South Dakota, native graduated from USD’s two-year medical program in 1970, and completed his medical degree at the University of Wisconsin. He returned to South Dakota in 1976, after serving in the Army during the war in Vietnam, and in that year he began service to South Dakota’s only medical school, a commitment that would span more than the next four decades.

As a pulmonologist, Dr. Parry cared for countless patients and pursued meaningful and consequential research in respiratory diseases and the genetics of asthma.

He served as president of the South Dakota State Medical Association, and became a Master in the American College of Physicians. His national service in a variety of positions provided South Dakota with valuable visibility and significant impact on national medical education standards.

As dean of USD’s medical school he built important bridges to the state’s medical community and institutions, boosting faculty and advancing student opportunities and scholarships. Under his leadership the medical school opened a world-class simulation center, expanded campus operations in Yankton, Rapid City and Sioux Falls, and gained national recognition for its successes educating and providing doctors to rural locations.

Dr. Parry continues to serve the medical school as a valued advisor.

Tickets for the formal induction ceremony on Sept. 8 at the Hall of Fame facility in Chamberlain are available through the South Dakota Hall of Fame by calling 605-234-4216, or by visiting the Hall of Fame website at sdexcellence.org.