The Sun Grant Initiative

A Concept From US Sen. Tom Daschle to Revitalize Rural Communities and Solve Our Energy Needs
Problems and Challenges for the Nation

- Second major energy crisis in 30 years.
- Shortages of electrical power.
- Retail prices of gasoline and natural gas recently hit record levels.
- Farmers are experiencing economic hardships.
- Exodus from rural areas to urban centers.
Problems and Challenges for the Nation

» Viable alternatives and diversity are needed in agriculture.
» We can help solve these problems.
» Feedstocks for production of fuels, electrical power, lubricants, plastics, solvents, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, building materials, and numerous other biobased products.
The Sun Grant Initiative

A national network of DOE laboratories and land grant universities to implement a biobased economy.
The Sun Grant Initiative

Mission

- Enhance national energy security through development, distribution and implementation of biobased energy technologies.
- Promote biobased diversification and environmental sustainability of America’s agriculture.
- Promote opportunities for biobased economic diversification in rural communities.
The Sun Grant Initiative

Oregon State Univ.

South Dakota State Univ.

Cornell Univ.

DOE-ORNL

USDA-CSREES

Univ. of Tennessee

DOE - NREL

Oklahoma State Univ.
Centers and Regions

✦ Five national centers.
✦ Each to receive federal funding to establish their expertise and solidify their programs.
✦ Each center will also administer competitive grants for their respective regions.
The Land Grant System

- Research, Academic, and Extension programs.
- Broader than the ag colleges;
  - SDSU Colleges of Family & Consumer Sciences, Engineering, and Pharmacy
Plans

- Planning and legislation preparation are underway.
- Be thinking about how to implement at SDSU
  - Form teams
  - Define goals and objectives
  - Intend to make an impact