



Innovation, Workforce, and Research Conference (IWRC) Dakotas
10-11 June 2024
Preliminary Agenda (Timing and speakers may change slightly)

Monday, 10 June

[The District](#)

4521 W Empire Place
 Sioux Falls, SD 57106

(Parking available on the north of the District in the Empire Mall parking lot and on the southwest side)

Time (CT)	Session	
5:30-8:00 PM	Opening Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Paul TenHaken • Additional Elected Officials (invited)

Tuesday, 11 June

[Denny Sanford Premier Center](#) - Ballroom A

12301 N. West Avenue
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104

[Directions & Parking](#)

Time (CT)	Session	Speaker
8:00 AM	Breakfast and Registration	
8:30 AM	Welcome & Kickoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vickie Ozburn, Region 4 Director • Stacy Manni, Air Force Research Network- Midwest
8:45 AM	Opening Keynote	TBD
9:00 AM	EPSCOR, Small Business Administration, and Federal Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joni Ekstrum, Executive Director, South Dakota Biotech (moderator) • Sandra Richardson, Ph.D., Section Head, Research Capacity and Competitiveness Section, NSF Office of Integrated Activities • Bryson Patterson, South Dakota Deputy District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration
9:45 AM	The South Dakota Workforce of the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis Hedge, PharmD., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, South Dakota State University
10:10 AM	Partnering with Tribal Colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Channell, Nebraska Indian Community College • Additional panelist (invited)
10:30 AM	Networking Break	
11:00 AM	Breakout Sessions	
	1) Engaging with Federal Government and Funding Opportunities like the CHIPS Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcella Hurley, South Dakota APEX Accelerator • Matt Francis, IEEE Region 5 Director and President, Ozark IC • Lisa Claassen, SBA South Dakota Opportunity Specialist • Additional panelists (invited)



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Tuesday, 11 June (cont'd.)		
Session	Speaker	
	2) Utilizing State and Local Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Kakacek, Center Director, South Dakota Manufacturing and Technology Solutions • Stoen Mollman, South Dakota SBIR Program Director • Ryan Oines, University of South Dakota Discovery District • Additional panelists (invited)
12:00 PM	Keynote Lunch: TBA	
1:00 PM	Fireside Chat: AI and the Dakotas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke Lindberg, President and CEO, South Dakota Trade • Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, President, Dakota State University
1:30 PM	How South Dakota can Contribute to CHIPS Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Feindt, National Center for the Advancement of Semiconductor Technology (NATCAST) (invited)
2:00 PM	Networking Break	
3:00 PM	Breakout Sessions	Panel Discussions
	1) Preparing the CHIPS Act Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lance Roberts, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology • Additional Panelists (invited)
	2) Scaling Up Regional Economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelists (invited)
4:15 PM	What's Next	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacy Manni, Air Force Research Network- Midwest
5:00 PM	Adjourn	