



— State of —
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

**North Dakota EPSCoR
State Conference
September 29, 2006
Grand Forks, North Dakota**

Greetings from the Office of the Governor!

As Governor, it is my privilege to welcome you to Grand Forks and the annual conference of the North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. Regrettably, I am not able to be with you today, but appreciate the opportunity to recognize the important contributions of North Dakota EPSCoR and to thank each of you for the great work you are doing on behalf of our state.

Research is vital to the continued growth and diversification of North Dakota's economy and to the competitiveness of our state in the global marketplace. North Dakota EPSCoR is making it possible for our state to access funding for science and technology research, helping to ensure our state's competitiveness relative to education, technology and entrepreneurial opportunities.

EPSCoR works in strong partnership with our Centers of Excellence initiative, providing access to emerging technologies, specialized knowledge and an educated workforce. We are creating hubs of research and development through our colleges and universities around which related businesses expand and dynamic new businesses cluster. As a result, we are securing a future of continued growth and prosperity for our state.

Again, welcome to the EPSCoR annual conference and best wishes for continued success as you work to stimulate competitive research in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hoeven". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J".

John Hoeven
Governor