



Talking science across South Dakota



At the heart of Sanford Lab's mission is a strong commitment to "transform education." We offer internships in different disciplines to undergraduate students, introduce students to exciting research through our Davis-Bahcall Scholars Program, and inspire K-12 students and teachers using innovative teaching and learning tools.

But our commitment to education extends beyond the classroom.

In 2015, Sanford Lab began a public lecture series called "Deep Talks: Science for Everyone." Members of the public hear about our experiments, Nobel-winning research, hands-on learning and even algorithmic art. The series is held each month from October to May at the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center; so far, we've reached more than 800 people in Lead, alone.

This success encouraged us to broaden our reach. So, beginning in February, Mike Headley, executive director of the SDSTA, and Jaret Heise, science director, took to the road, giving public talks at Dakota State University, Augustana University, the University of South Dakota and Northern State University.

"We were thrilled to welcome Sanford Lab to DSU," said Michael

Gaylor, assistant professor of chemistry at DSU. "It was a wonderfully stimulating evening of intellectualism and discourse that informed and inspired. This talk did much to remind folks that this world-class scientific research facility is pushing the bounds of scientific knowledge right here in our own backyard."

With more than \$170 million in spending across the state, Sanford Lab "has a strong, positive impact on South Dakota's economy," Headley added. "And through a partnership with Black Hills State University, we've developed high-quality curriculum units, based on our science, that give K-12 teachers innovative tools that get students excited about science."

Sanford Lab's education specialists also offer assembly programs and field trips. Since September of 2015, nearly 14,000 South Dakota students have participated in Education and Outreach programs.

While on the road, Headley also gave presentations to the Optimist and Rotary clubs in Sioux Falls. "We were pleased to have the opportunity to host Sanford Lab," said David Pfeifle, program chair of the Sioux Falls Downtown Rotary. "It was a great program and a real success."

In all, the statewide Deep Talks

Mike Headley speaks to the Sioux Falls Downtown Rotary. Photo by Constance Walter

presentations drew more than 400 students, faculty and members of the public.

"We've enjoyed sharing the exciting news across the state about our current experiments and plans for lab expansion to host a new generation of world-leading science," Headley said.

"Deep Talks: Science on the Road" will continue in the fall.

Talks by the Numbers:

- Deep Talks attendance in Lead (Dec. 2015-March 2017): **801**
- Deep Talks on the Road (Feb.-March 2017): **408**
- K-12 students reached (Sept. 2015-Feb. 2017): **13,568**
- Dollars spent in South Dakota (2008-2016): **\$171 million**