

*“The success of SDSU faculty in garnering funding for their research is the primary reason we are able to contribute to the university’s research infrastructure. We work in concert with the university and principal investigators to facilitate their research.”*

– Dan M. Gilbreath,  
Executive Director, Research Foundation

San Diego State University Research Foundation is the largest auxiliary organization within the state of California. It is a nonprofit corporation chartered to augment the educational, research, and community service objectives of the university. Incorporated in 1943, the Research Foundation is governed by a board of directors composed of SDSU faculty and staff and community members.

The Research Foundation employs 158 central staff and more than 2,100 total employees, manages one million square feet of property, and administers more than \$200 million annually, including \$25 million on behalf of SDSU’s philanthropic organization, The Campanile Foundation. The Research Foundation serves the university in many ways, but its core function is to assist SDSU faculty and staff in developing and administering externally funded projects.

Last year the sponsored research development team helped SDSU faculty and staff submit 1,239 proposals. Our administrators guided them in the management of the \$134 million in research funding they received for 823 programs. The Research Foundation carefully manages and administers these sponsor funds while complying with numerous rules and regulations to ensure accountability and transparency.

SDSU Research Foundation supports SDSU by:

- Assisting faculty and staff in developing and administering federal, state and privately funded projects.
- Identifying funding sources, offering grant-related workshops, and assisting with proposal development and submission.
- Developing project budgets, obtaining university approvals, and negotiating sponsored grant and contract awards.
- Assisting with staff recruitment, procurement of goods and services, and interpreting agency guidelines and regulations for funded projects.
- Providing technology transfer services, protecting intellectual property, commercializing technology developed on campus, and assisting spin-out companies based on SDSU inventions.
- Identifying, acquiring, and managing real property in support of sponsored programs not housed in university facilities.
- Accounting and financial reporting support for research and project funds, scholarships, institutes, and The Campanile Foundation.

## Investing in Research

In addition to the ongoing services provided to SDSU researchers last year, the Research Foundation provided \$3.5 million in “research support funds” to support existing sponsored projects or to develop new ones. This included support for seed money for new projects, start-up funds for new researchers, matching funds for equipment, and financial support for joint doctoral programs and the university grants program.

Last year, support was also provided for research and administrative

positions in the College of Sciences and the College of Health and Human Services.

The Research Foundation facilitates partnerships between SDSU faculty and the community. Examples include:

- SDSU’s Soil Ecology and Restoration Group, which is collaborating with the San Diego River Conservancy to perform invasive plant control along the San Diego River to help restore the natural functions of the river as a conduit for water and sediment, and a habitat for threatened bird species.
- The Center for Bay and Coastal Dynamics, a collaboration with the Port of San Diego and scientists from SDSU, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute. This interdisciplinary research center studies the complex environmental processes influencing San Diego Bay and surrounding coastal waters.
- The Urban Area Security Initiative, which provides inter-operational communications, geographic information system, and regional technology clearinghouse expertise and research to the San Diego Unified Disaster Council and the San Diego Association of Governments.

## Support for Facilities

The Research Foundation provides the space in which nearly two-thirds of SDSU’s funded research is conducted, and participates in the development and support of other important facilities including:

### BioScience Center

This innovative research facility blends scholarship and research to find solutions for critical health issues including heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

SDSU undergraduate and graduate students are being trained at all levels by accomplished researchers. Last year saw the addition of five internationally known immunologists. Please see page 5 for a profile of the BioScience Center.

### Coastal Waters Laboratory

This state-of-the-art facility is one of the few marine laboratories constructed in an urban environment. With 10,500 square feet of indoor and 12,000 square feet of outdoor space, the lab provides a venue for SDSU faculty studying the environmental and public health issues related to local coastal waters and inland areas. The facility also houses 90 U.S. Geological Survey employees and last year became home to The Center for Bay and Coastal Dynamics.

## Additional Support

The Research Foundation houses SDSU’s Technology Transfer Office which helps SDSU faculty develop companies and commercialize research that can be applied to our communities. Last year, the TTO facilitated 16 disclosures, three new licenses, four copyrights, 11 new patents, and one trademark.

Our Professors Helping Professors (PhP) mentoring program matches senior faculty with junior researchers who are developing grant proposals. Last year, 12 teams from the colleges of Arts and Letters, Education, Engineering, and Sciences submitted 24 proposals.

