DORGAN ANNOUNCES NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR NDSU DNA LAB

Says agreement marks another Research Corridor milestone

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Because of an effort by U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), a cutting-edge DNA lab at North Dakota State University has been approved by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to perform crime-fighting work.

Dorgan wrote the DOJ in June asking that NDSU’s Forensic DNA Facility be placed on its list of approved DNA vendor laboratories eligible for work through the Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program. Dorgan said in the letter that NDSU’s lab met all the agency’s requirements.

NDSU’s lab utilizes high-tech equipment and methods for use in criminal and civil court cases. It has both FBI and international accreditations.

Dorgan received confirmation today from the DOJ that his request had been approved. The lab joins just 24 others in the nation eligible for similar work through the DNA Backlog program, which received $151 million in federal funding this fiscal year.

“NDSU’s Forensic DNA Facility is a top-notch lab that I wanted to make sure was on the Department of Justice’s radar screen,” Dorgan said. “This work will create new educational opportunities for NDSU and help fight crime nationwide. It’s also another success story for the Red River Valley Research Corridor.”

Since 2004, Dorgan has secured $3.5 million to fund the establishment of the lab, purchase equipment and hire staff.

“Approval by the National Institute of Justice as a DNA laboratory vendor to receive casework from law enforcement agencies, under the Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program, is a major accomplishment for our facility,” said Dr. Berch Henry, Director of the NDSU Forensic DNA Facility. “This achievement acknowledges that our program has successfully met the highest standards of our profession.”

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