



**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Director of the Ethel Austin Martin Endowed Chair/ Professor



The Opportunity

South Dakota State University invites applications, nominations, and expressions of interest for the position of Director of the Ethel Austin Martin Endowed Chair in Nutrition. SDSU seeks an accomplished and nationally renowned researcher to lead the Ethel Austin Martin research enterprise in human nutrition and expand the effort beyond its current scope into a center of excellence. The Ethel Austin Martin Endowed Chair in Nutrition leads and directs the Ethel Austin Martin Program in Nutrition through a broad vision of nutrition and translation of vision into creative and innovative interdisciplinary research and education. The EAM Endowed chair is a 12-month position reporting to the Vice President of Research and is funded by a substantial endowment which has grown steadily over its 27-year history.

The Ethel Austin Martin Chair in Nutrition

The Chair will lead the Ethel Austin Martin Program in Human Nutrition and provide leadership in cutting-edge research which will develop into the establishment of a university-level center in human nutrition. Additionally, the Chair will be responsible for creating a vision for engaging interdisciplinary researchers from inside and outside the university in collaborative research and education which will advance the field of human nutrition.

A major responsibility of the Chair will be to generate substantial extramural support for human nutrition research in support of the university's goal to become a major research university deserving of recognition as an R1 institution. By leveraging support funds from the Ethel Austin Martin Program endowment with competitive grant funds, the Chair will develop plans for a center of excellence in human nutrition which will be interdisciplinary and collaborative. The Chair will recruit, supervise, and provide professional development for researchers, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, and staff for the Ethel Austin Martin Program in Human Nutrition.

As the center for excellence is developed, the Chair will lead the research team in the center and be the individual responsible for setting the research direction and goals for the center and its recruited personnel. Research and administration will be the primary duties of the Chair who will be on a 12-month appointment, reporting directly to the Vice President of Research. Although not a requirement of the position, the Chair will have the option of securing a tenured appointment in an appropriate academic department.

Minimum Requirements

- An earned Ph.D., M.D., or Sc.D. degree in nutrition or a closely related field
- 10 or more years of experience in nutrition-related research
- Demonstrated track record of competitive external funding for nutrition-related research.

Additional Requirements

- Demonstrated leadership ability.
- Participation in relative professional organization
- Demonstrated success in leading multidisciplinary collaboration.
- Ability to effectively assemble and manage an interdisciplinary research team.
- Willingness to commit to working in the spirit of SDSU's core values: people-centered, creativity, integrity, diversity, and excellence.
- Ability to formulate and actualize a strategic vision and plan.

Desired Qualities

- Excellent interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills
- Proven commitment to ethical standards in research and personal behavior
- Strong work ethic
- Entrepreneurial attitude in seeking extramural funding.
- An inclusive approach to embracing diverse opinions, experiences, and backgrounds in creating a robust work environment.

About South Dakota State University

South Dakota State University is the state's largest, most comprehensive higher education institution. As South Dakota's Morrill Act land-grant university, SDSU had a fall 2023 enrollment of 11,505, with students coming from 47 states and 73 countries. Students can choose from 88 majors, 38 specializations, 104 minors, 39 master's degree programs, 16 Ph.D. programs and 2 professional doctorates. The university also offers courses at various off-campus sites as well as undergraduate and graduate programs online through the Office of Continuing and Distance Education. The university is governed by the South Dakota Board of Regents, which also has oversight of South Dakota's five additional universities within a unified system.

From its roots as a land-grant university, committed to the creation of knowledge and educating all, established in Brookings, South Dakota in 1881, South Dakota State University today is a vibrant institution. SDSU is South Dakota's first High Research Activity institution as classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. It competes in Division I athletics and is a member of the Big 12 conference for wrestling, the Missouri Valley Football Conference, and the Summit League for all other sports.

With exceptional alumni, community, and Foundation support for student scholarships and all aspects of university life, SDSU is the center of life in Brookings, a friendly and economically healthy community of nearly 24,000. Brookings has outstanding schools, strong local economic research and development efforts, lovely parks, museums and well-attended cultural activities. The university fosters close working relationships with local school districts, and there is a kindergarten on campus. Located one hour's drive north of Sioux Falls, the state's largest city, SDSU and Brookings offer a very high quality of life in an engaged, active campus community. It is also notable that the state of South Dakota has no personal income tax. Learn more about Brookings by visiting [here](#).

Mission

South Dakota State University offers a rich academic experience in an environment of inclusion and access through inspired, student-centered education, creative activities and research, innovation and engagement that improve the quality of life in South Dakota, the region, the nation and the world.

Vision

South Dakota State University will be a premier land-grant university recognized for high value, innovation and bold impact. The University's strategic plan, Pathway to Premier 2030, is a strategic plan to enhance the future of South Dakota and its citizens while meeting the challenges of an increasingly global, complex and interconnected society. The plan draws on the university's strengths and commitment to excellence, creating a pathway to the future as a high-performing institution that delivers exceptional value to students and stakeholders. The plan's goals focus on excellence through transformative education, strengthening community engagement, fostering innovation and increase in research, scholarship and creative activity to become a growing, high-performing and healthy university. For more information, visit <https://www.sdstate.edu/pathway-premier-2030>.

ABOUT THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

South Dakota State University's Division of Research and Economic Development works closely with university researchers, business leaders and other sponsors to promote faculty expertise aimed at solving real-world problems in society and industry. SDSU supports competitive and

strategic research, scholarship, and creative activity in its mission as a land-grant university. The university's diverse research enterprise covers a range of disciplines, including agriculture, engineering, remote sensing, life sciences, nursing, pharmacy and the arts and humanities. The research enterprise also capitalizes on expertise in digital technology related to agriculture and resource management.

In 2023, the research expenditures for the university totaled more than \$74 million — a 24% increase from FY22. SDSU has an R2 Doctoral University: High Research Activity designation from The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Currently, the university is exploring a move to R1, outlined in its most recent strategic plan.

Daniel Scholl has served as vice president for research and economic development at South Dakota State University since 2017. At SDSU, he has overseen the growth of the research enterprise and supported the development of two state-of-the-art research facilities: The POET Bioproducts Center and the Raven Precision Agriculture Center. Previously, he served as interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences in 2016-2017. He joined SDSU in 2011 as associate dean for research of the college and director of the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Scholl came to SDSU from the Université de Montréal Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, where he helped establish and led the Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network. He also spent part of his career at Louisiana State University and the Universiteit Utrecht in the Netherlands in teaching and research capacities.

The vice president for research reports directly to the president and oversees a team of research support professionals that is expected to grow in coming years.

Opportunities and Challenges

The Ethel Austin Martin Chair position represents an outstanding opportunity for an established researcher to build upon a strong foundation of research and education in human nutrition and related work to establish a national center of excellence in nutrition. The 27-year-old Ethel Austin Martin Endowment has grown steadily and annual revenue from the corpus is available to support the Chair position and human nutrition research and education programming. The Chair will generate substantial extramural funding from NIH and other sources to expand and strengthen the research enterprise of the Ethel Austin Martin research program in the evolution of the effort to establish a center of excellence.

The envisioned national center of excellence will bring together research collaborators across the university, throughout South Dakota, and nationally to address current topics in human nutrition in cutting-edge research. The Chair will lead the research program, develop the center, set the vision for the research, recruit, and supervise personnel, and obtain extramural funding. In the center, there will be opportunities to not only advance basic and applied research in human nutrition, but also to disseminate information nationally and to regional and local audiences to address human nutrition challenges.

South Dakota is a largely rural state, and its geography and population present unique possibilities for nutrition research. One such opportunity is to cooperate in nutrition research and education in collaboration with indigenous people and researchers in partnerships with Native American tribes, tribal colleges, and other tribal organizations. In support of such collaborations, SDSU has a

formalized entity, the Wokini Initiative, to support the success of Native American students and Indigenous Nation-building. The Ethel Austin Martin Program has a history of conducting human nutrition research relevant to the state of South Dakota and in collaboration and cooperation with the local Native American populations and tribal entities. Continued nutrition research that is locally focused is encouraged as part of the research portfolio of the Chair and the future center.

South Dakota State University is well positioned with a stable fiscal base and increasing research expenditures to advance to the next level as a doctoral research university. Success at the university level has been demonstrated by both growth in student enrollment and annual increases in research expenditures. As the Ethel Austin Martin Program continues to grow, it will play a role in strengthening the university's research mission and as such will present an opportunity for the next Chair to participate in advancing the university's national reputation and Carnegie classification as part of the "R1 Our Way" initiative.

The Chair will function as a 12-month director of research and will have the option of securing a tenured position in an appropriate academic department with the rank of Professor. The successful candidate may negotiate to support accompanying team members. In recognition of the Chair's future contributions in research, the individual in the position will be eligible to participate in the research incentive plan that supplies one-time salary supplements based on released salary support in funded grants which have indirect cost support.

Applications, Nominations, and Expressions of Interest

For full consideration, applications should be received by **April 8, 2024**.

Candidates should provide the following:

- Letter of interest addressing the experience and qualifications identified in the profile.
- A curriculum vitae/resume.
- Five professional references with email addresses and phone numbers provided (references will not be contacted without prior permission from the applicant).

Applications should be in PDF format and submitted through the AGB Search portal at: [SDSU - Ethel Austin Martin Endowed Chair in Nutrition](#)

Nominations and expressions of interest may be submitted to:

SDSU-AustinMartinChair@aqbsearch.com

AGB Search is assisting with this search. Nominators and prospective applicants may contact the executive search consultants for additional information:

Laura Woodworth-Ney, Ph.D. - Principal

laura.woodworth-ney@aqbsearch.com / 208-589-8896

Jerome A. "Jerry" Gilbert, Ph.D. - Executive Search Consultant

Jerry.gilbert@aqbsearch.com / 662-769-1021