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Office of Naval Research director spelled out needs at recent “Resource Rendezvous” in Stevens Point

STEVENS POINT – Researchers and grant writers from 10 public and private campuses heard about the research needs of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps during a Nov. 6 conference at UW-Stevens Point on attracting federal research to Wisconsin.

Dr. Patricia Gruber, director of research for the Office on Naval Research, was the keynote speaker at the event, which attracted about 60 academic, industry and government representatives from across Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Security Research Consortium, the Marshfield Clinic and UW-Stevens Point hosted “Resource Rendezvous,” an event designed to expose academic and private-sector researchers to opportunities for federal grants and contracts.

To learn more about the event or to view presentations, go to www.wisecurity.org/events

As ONR director of research since late 2005, Dr. Gruber is responsible for the “discovery and invention” science and technology portfolio in support of naval mission areas. The Office of Naval Research coordinates, executes and promotes the science and tech programs of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps through schools, universities, government laboratories, and nonprofit and for-profit organizations. It provides technical advice to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Secretary of the Navy and works with industry to improve technology manufacturing processes.

Gruber spoke about Navy science and technology needs, including command and control, communications and computers, platform technologies, materials, countermeasures and power and energy. Break-out sessions focused on how private industry can work with academia, government power needs, government communications and information technology needs, civilian and soldier safety needs, and health-related research.

“We’re pleased Dr. Gruber visited Wisconsin,” said Jack Heinemann, director of the Wisconsin Security Research Consortium, a non-profit organization managed through the Wisconsin Technology Council. “In addition to her conference appearance, she met with leaders of major research institutions in the state. We demonstrated the depth and breadth of Wisconsin’s research capacity and sent the message that Wisconsin is open for business.”

The WSRC was created to help match Wisconsin's academic researchers and private partners with federal classified research needs.

About 60 percent of the conference attendees were academic personnel; about 40 percent were from private industry. UW System campuses represented were Eau Claire, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Platteville, Stevens Point, Stout and Whitewater. Also attending were representatives of the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Marshfield Clinic Applied Sciences and WiSys.

Also attending were representatives for U.S. Sens. Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold, as well as U.S. Reps. David Obey, Ron Kind and Tammy Baldwin.

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