

Pomeroy attends UND energy project briefing

Matt Bewley, *Grand Forks Herald*

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Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., met Wednesday at UND's Upson II Hall with Wayne Seames, Ph.D., and other faculty members working on sustainable energy. They were gathered to discuss cutting edge research being conducted by the university's Sustainable Energy Research, Infrastructure and Support Education program.

"The whole concept of the Red River Valley research corridor is going to drive activity in ways that have corners of creativity well beyond what I am even aware of," Pomeroy said. "And what we've seen with this project today is some federal research dollars combined with some extremely creative work done by leaders at the university."

The SUNRISE program is researching agriculture-based energy and chemical products, as well as clean coal technology, that may contribute to reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil. One of the focuses of the project is building the research around the students, according to Seames.



Earl Pomeroy

Among the topics addressed were the feasibility of algae and other more typical crops as convertible biofuel products. Topics included research into the use of sound wave energy and vibration for power. Seames proposed that within 20 years, it may be possible to harness automobile traffic vibration on bridges for conversion into lighting systems for the bridges' night traffic.

After a 30-minute overview of the project scope and goals, Pomeroy was treated to a tour of the research facilities.

"It's very exciting to have this here, and it needs to be an important part of what we continue to do as we move toward more emphasis on energy independence for our country," he said.