

## University of Delaware To Receive Almost \$900K for Research into Alternative Sources of Energy -- January 31, 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Delaware's Congressional delegation today announced two separate grants totaling almost \$ 900K in federal funding for research into alternative sources of energy at the University of Delaware. Funding in the amount of \$450,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy will go towards research of nanomagnetism and \$449,223 will go towards solar cell research.

\$449,223, to be distributed over the next three years, will fund a research program aimed at developing nanostructured solar cells. These studies (in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado) will allow researchers to find nano-materials with enhanced absorption and increased efficiency for converting the sunlight into energy, as compared to regular bulk materials. By tailoring the composition and the electronic structure of these new materials, it is expected that the solar cell efficiency could be increased up to 50%. Additionally, \$450,000, also to be distributed over the next three years, will go towards the study of magnets (in collaboration with physicists at the Argonne National Lab in Chicago) and how they may contribute to the conservation of energy.

"Clearly Delaware is on the cutting edge when it comes to alternative energy research," said Senator Biden. "Hopefully, some day, the efforts of folks at the University of Delaware and other researchers across the country will pay off, and we will be truly free from our dependence on foreign oil."

"Delaware might be a small state but we are making big gains when it comes to alternative energy," said Senator Carper. "Grants like these make it possible for researchers to continue their work developing ways for us to achieve our energy independence."

"I continue to be impressed by the research going on in Delaware on alternative sources of energy and with critical federal assistance such as this, technology behind innovations like solar panels can be available to all of us. I commend University of Delaware for their leadership in continuing these significant studies which all make a difference in the renewed fight to become more energy independent," Congressman Castle said.

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