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## Bacheller, Jorgenson, and Mugan Receive 2010 Research Corridor Awards

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Created *Oct 14 2010 - 11:48am*

During the Red River Valley Research Corridor Milestones and Horizons Conference held on Monday, Oct. 11, U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) honored three of the region's innovators for their contributions to the Research Corridor.

Don Mugan, director of the Great Plains STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Center at Valley City State University (VCSU) received the "Pathfinder Award." This award recognizes Mugan for achievement in developing and deploying breakthrough technologies, products, processes or services in the marketplace that have a significant effect on the way businesses and society operate.

Mugan has worked at VCSU since 1973. He has been a key figure in technology-related advances at the school. Mugan now leads the Great Plains STEM Center, where teachers and students receive training in some of the nation's most cutting-edge technology.

Barry Batcheller, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Fargo's Appareo Systems, was presented with the "Discovery Award." This award recognizes Batcheller for outstanding leadership and service in building and raising the visibility of the region's research enterprise and for groundbreaking scientific and applied research that has a regional, national or global impact.

Batcheller's company produces cutting-edge devices and software for aerospace, defense and transportation applications worldwide. In a short time, his company has grown and achieved great success. In fact, Appareo ranked in Inc. Magazine's top 500 fastest-growing companies list this year. Batcheller is also the founder of Fargo's Phoenix International Corp.

Joel Jorgenson, founder and CEO of Fargo's Packet Digital, received the additional Discovery Award. Jorgenson's company works to reduce the weight and extend the life of power supplies for portable electronic devices and defense systems. Packet Digital appeared on Inc. Magazine's top 500 fastest-growing companies list in 2008.

"North Dakotans should be extremely proud of these Research Corridor leaders for their work in high-tech education and business development," Dorgan said. "Their work will help continue to produce high-tech leaders and develop cutting-edge products in our state for many years to come."

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