Gov. Gray Davis has proposed the creation of three California Institutes for Science and Innovation, to be located at campuses of the University of California. Each institute would focus on scientific and engineering research in a sector key to the future of the California economy, bringing together faculty, undergraduates, graduate students and business partners to work in cross-disciplinary teams aimed at developing the next generation of knowledge in the field.

UC strongly supports this proposal as a means of fostering scientific and engineering research that will broaden the frontiers of knowledge and provide the foundation for California's continued competitiveness in the technology-based global economy.

The governor's proposal is subject to legislative approval and will be discussed further as the 2000-01 state budget is developed. Below is a conceptual overview.

**Research Benefiting the California Economy**

The California Institutes for Science and Innovation would be devoted to basic and applied cross-disciplinary research in a mission-oriented environment, focusing on problems of significant scale and on scientific advances that may provide the underpinnings of future economic activity in California. Additionally, the institutes would provide educational programs for undergraduate and graduate students to help train the state's next generation of scientists and technological innovators.

These world-class institutes would be designed to foster technical breakthroughs in areas where the complexity of the research agenda requires the advantages of scope, scale, duration, equipment and facilities that a comprehensive center can provide.

"The research innovations and skilled workforce provided by UC have played a critical role in the success of the California economy in the 20th century," said UC President Richard C. Atkinson. "These centers will help California remain competitive in the 21st century by mobilizing the state's best scientists and engineers to stimulate innovation in fields critical to our collective future."

Each institute would engage corporate entities, and possibly faculty from other academic institutions, as partners in collaborative research. The purpose of this partnering provision is to ensure cross-fertilization and cultural exchange in education and research, and to introduce students to the culture and objectives of industry.

"Our institutes will concentrate intellect, experience and entrepreneurial talent in focused areas of scientific inquiry to discover and apply the breakthroughs necessary for the next generation of technologies," Gov. Davis said in his State of the State address.

**Funding and Implementation**

The governor's 2000-01 state budget proposal offers $75 million in capital funding for the Institutes for Science and Innovation. This state funding would be matched by funds from private and federal sources on a 2:1 basis. If approved by the Legislature, planning and development of the institutes would begin in the 2000-01 fiscal year.

Specific sites for the institutes would be selected through a competitive process based on proposals submitted by the UC campuses. The campuses could collaborate on individual proposals, and a single campus could submit more than one proposal. Only one institute could be located on a given campus, however.

In his State of the State address, Gov. Davis indicated that proposals in a variety of fields would be considered - among them medicine and bioengineering, telecommunications and information systems, energy resources, and space and agricultural technology.

"Fifty years ago, there was no Silicon Valley," the governor said. "Thirty years ago, there was no biotech industry. Ten years ago, there was no Internet. Who knows what new enterprises will be created or what medical breakthroughs will result because of our institutes? But this we do know: Breakthroughs will occur. And I want to make sure they will occur right here in California."