UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Driven to Discover**

IPRIME



- Industrial
- Partnership for
- **Research** in
- Interfacial and
- <u>Materials</u>
- Engineering



IPRIME History

- CIE (Center for Interfacial Engineering)
 - Funded by NSF from 1988 to 1999
 - Industrial outreach, 114 resident fellows
 - Fostered a culture of integrated research, education and industrial interaction
- Members encouraged continued collaboration
- IPrime (Industrial Partnership for Interfacial and Materials Engineering)



IPRIME

University-Industry Partnership based on Two-Way Knowledge Exchange

- Highly Interdisciplinary (54 faculty in 9 departments)
 - Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics
 - Biomedical Engineering
 - Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering
 - Electrical and Computer Engineering
 - Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
 - Chemistry
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Pharmaceutics
 - Physics
- Pre-Competitive and Non-Proprietary

• 8 Research Programs

- 4 MRSEC and 4 others
- One of the largest MRSECs
- ~\$3 million per year (6 yr grant renewal 2014)



Research Programs

- Biocatalysis and Biotechnology (BB)
- Biomaterials and Pharmaceutical Materials (BPM)
- Coating Process Fundamentals (CPF)
- Magnetic Heterostructures (MH) MRSEC
- Microstructured Polymers (MP) MRSEC
- Nanostructural Materials and Processes (NMP)
- Organic Optoelectronic Interfaces (OEI) MRSEC
- Renewable Energy Materials (REM) MRSEC



Industrial Support

- More than \$1,800,000 per year in contributions from over 50 companies
- Sponsor Membership (\$50,000 per year)
 - Participation in up to 4 research programs
 - Possibility of an Industrial Fellow
 - Participation on the Policy and Planning Board (PPB)
- Affiliate Membership (\$40,000 per year)
 - Participation in one 1 research program, no Industrial Fellow
- Small company option
 - \$7,500 minimum
 - Or 0.03% of sales per year, up to \$40,000





How does I' help innovation?

- •industrial partners are asked hard questions
- learn new levers to pull
- •meet people, topics never would see
- •direct competitors talk about common challenges
- •bring in new ideas for research
- keep faculty grounded in real world
- polished, employable students
- unrestricted funds for faculty
 - Initiate a blue sky project
 - Bridge between major grants

•foster a culture of integrated research, education and industrial interaction



Factors Affecting Success Staff/Structure

- embrace "customer focus" (make it easy for industry to do business with you)
- understand R&D management issues
- bridge the gap between pure and applied science
- foster a collegial culture
- open approach minimizes legal wrangling