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Alberta continues to attract the world's top researchers

CALGARY – Two new high-profile iCORE research awards are being announced today during a lunch ceremony at the University of Calgary, highlighting Alberta's success in attracting some of the top researchers in the world to its universities. Both of these new awards support initiatives that will grow into programs of research excellence in strategic areas of information and communications technology (ICT).

Dr Hugh Williams will lead a cryptography research group at the University of Calgary. As an iCORE Chair, he will lead a research team exploring mathematical foundations of the increasingly crucial areas of communications security. Dr Williams is the top academic in Canada and one of the leading researchers in the world in this field. He will be building a world-class team in Alberta.

Dr Guenther Ruhe will spearhead a laboratory in software engineering decision support. He has been awarded an iCORE Senior Research Fellow award in conjunction with an Industrial Research Chair award at the University of Calgary. His research is designed to help businesses make good decisions in the midst of the complex dynamic life cycle of software development. Dr Ruhe was recruited to Alberta from Germany, where he was Deputy Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering.

"These two iCORE awards are strong additions to the culture of research excellence that we are creating in target areas of information and communications technology in Alberta," stated Victor Doerksen, Minister of Alberta Innovation and Science. "This is an important part of the support we are providing in the research areas of communications security and software development. All Albertans, especially industry, will benefit from these new initiatives."

"These researchers are examples of the superior quality of research that the University of Calgary is developing. We are delighted to partner with iCORE to recruit and retain outstanding world-class researchers. Drs Williams and Ruhe exemplify the high quality work we sustain at the U of C," said Dr Harvey Weingarten, President of the University of Calgary. "Their ability is world-class, their areas of research highly valued, and their plans to build research teams at the University of Calgary very exciting. The research programs built around these two individuals benefit society and the students, and we are delighted to be part of the team building research excellence in the province."

Dr Williams will operate a \$6 million research program over the next five years, with \$3 million provided by iCORE. Dr Ruhe will operate \$3.5 million research program over the next five years, with \$1.75 million invested by iCORE.