



REGENTS UPDATE

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Higher Education System Collaborates in Academic Disciplines

All six of the state's public universities are cooperating at unprecedented levels to streamline course delivery, focus on course standards and assessment, and forge new linkages with K-12 education, annual reports from the higher education discipline councils show.

The South Dakota Board of Regents created the discipline councils to focus on academic programs in English, Mathematics, Information Technology, Business, Science, Foreign Language, Education, and Fine Arts. Faculty representatives from each public university, along with a Regents' representative, sit on the councils and meet throughout the year to address academic priorities.

Regents heard reports from the eight discipline councils at the June business meeting.

A major focus for the councils this year has been the review of coursework common across the Regental system and the revising of those courses to provide consistency statewide. This process is well under way and should be completed by the end of the year, according to Regents' Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry.

The councils also have worked to establish connections between K-12 schools and their specific discipline. For example, K-12 school superintendents were invited on campus visits to the five teacher education programs to discuss teacher preparation. In another case, the Fine Arts Discipline Council is studying the shortage of K-12 music teachers in South Dakota and plans to offer suggestions for dealing with the problem later this summer.

"The discipline councils also have tackled a review of nationally normed assessment tools, provided a comprehensive inventory of faculty expertise and equipment in their fields, and collaborated on new approaches for delivery of educational services," Perry said.

Board President Harvey C. Jewett praised the efforts of the discipline councils. "This kind of work across institutions is very valuable to our system as a whole," Jewett said. "It will translate into better programs and services for our students."■

Spring 2002 Proficiency Exam Results

- ◆ 1,891 students tested.
- ◆ Students at all six universities performed at or above the national user norm in writing skills, reading, and science reasoning.
- ◆ Majority of students had test scores well above the national user norm.
- ◆ Students performed best in science reasoning, followed by reading, writing skills, and mathematics.
- ◆ Highest passing rates were recorded in science reasoning (99 percent), followed by mathematics (98.2 percent) reading (97 percent), and writing skills (95.2 percent).
- ◆ Overall passing rate on exam, including initial, first retest, and second retest is 97.3 percent.

New Academic Programs Meet Workforce Needs

The South Dakota Board of Regents approved nine new academic programs at its regular business meeting in June. The new programs are designed to meet the needs of South Dakota's changing workforce.

"Public higher education must be responsive to the economic climate in South Dakota," Board President Harvey C. Jewett said. "South Dakota needs to grow its knowledge-based economy, and these degrees all position our graduates to take their place in the technological world of business, education, and industry."

The new programs approved include both graduate and undergraduate degrees, as well as minors. Universities offering the new programs are:

- **Dakota State University**—minor in Computer Science, minor in Computer and Network Security, minor in Networking;
- **Northern State University**—Master of Science in Education in E-learning Design and Instruction, Master of Science in E-learning Technology and Administration;
- **South Dakota State University**—Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management with Specialization in Industrial Sales, Bachelor of Science in Safety Management, minor in Applied Information Technologies;
- **The University of South Dakota**—Bachelor of Arts in International Studies.

The Regents also approved new certificate programs in photography (Black Hills State University); health care coding (Dakota State University); financial planning for family and farm, geographic information science, post master's certificates for nurse educators and family nurse practitioners (South Dakota State University); and public health (University of South Dakota).

Except for the two new master's degree programs at Northern State University, the programs approved were created without new state funding. "By building on system and campus efficiencies, along with careful planning and coordination, the universities are making these programs available within the existing higher education budget," said Robert T. Tad Perry, executive director of the Regents. "These programs will be a real complement to workforce development efforts under way in South Dakota."

Perry said the two NSU graduate degrees are part of the initiative to establish the Center for Statewide E-learning on the Aberdeen campus, first authorized in 2001 by the South Dakota Legislature and Gov. Bill Janklow. ■

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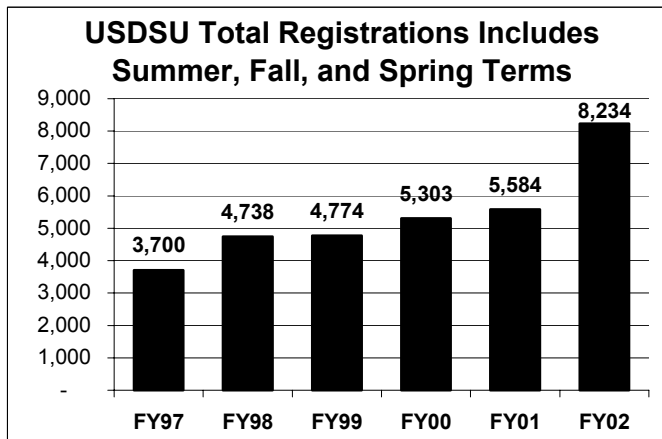
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USDSU Gains Unprecedented Growth

Executive Dean Mark Lee presented the USDSU Sioux Falls Annual Report to the South Dakota Board of Regents at its regular June business meeting. The report summarized accomplishments and progress for the last fiscal year.

USDSU is a partnership between the University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, and Dakota State University and is located in a new state-of-the-art building on the Southeast Technical Institute Campus.

The annual report presented to the Regents highlighted the explosive enrollment growth USDSU experienced this past year. Fall headcount increased by 22 percent and credit hours by 35 percent over the prior fall. The spring semester showed additional growth by increasing another 12 percent over the fall term. The spring 2002 enrollment includes 1,579 students attending at USDSU in Sioux Falls.



"The growth of USDSU is impressive. It is obvious from the climbing enrollment numbers that USDSU is fulfilling a great need for public higher education in Sioux Falls. The Regents are pleased with the leadership provided by Mark Lee and the cooperation and commitment of the University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, and Dakota State University to offer quality programs and courses to the people of the Sioux Falls area," said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett.

The report also included information regarding student demographics such as:

- 73 percent of students were from the immediate Sioux Falls area;

- 59 percent of students were over 23 years of age; and
- 25 percent of students were in graduate programs.

Lee noted, "The reason USDSU is having such great success is our focus on the adult and working student and our focus on degree programs important to the economic development of the Sioux Falls community. Our students are in programs that provide them access to great careers in Sioux Falls today and in the future as the local economy develops."

"When the Regents created USDSU (formerly the Center for Public Higher Education), the vision was to serve those adult and non-traditional students who live in the Sioux Falls area. The enrollment demographics show those are exactly the students we are serving," said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry.

The report noted that USDSU students prefer class-meeting times that are distinctly different than a residential campus. Students prefer late afternoon or evening classes that generally only meet one time a week.

"We make every effort to schedule classes when students want them," Lee continued. "We respect their busy lives as well as their desire to improve their lot in life."

The new USDSU facility is filling quickly with added classes, faculty, and staff. "We are seeing term-over-term growth in enrollment in our new facility," Lee added.

"The quality of the partner universities, the advantages of a college degree, the types of programs we offer, the convenience of our Sioux Falls location, and our attractive overall cost is making USDSU the location of choice for more and more students," Lee concluded. "While we still have a long way to go, we have been very pleased with the reception received from the local community and we look forward to additional success." ■

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Regents Approve Residential Facilities Plans for SDSU, SDSM&T

Plans for improved residential facilities on public university campuses in Brookings and Rapid City were given the green light by the South Dakota Board of Regents at its regular business meeting in June.

The plans submitted by South Dakota State University and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology are the first approved following a year-long residence hall study. The study focused on system needs across all six campuses, as well as students' housing preferences.

The School of Mines and Technology will construct a new residence hall housing 300 students to replace March/Dake Hall. The \$3.5 million facility offers a mix of room options, including traditional rooms arranged around community living spaces, designated single rooms, and suite-style rooms. Amenities include private showers, kitchens, laundries, study spaces, wiring for technology, air conditioning, and shared community spaces with the nearby Surbeck Center.

Long-range plans at the Rapid City campus call for eventual replacement of all three current on-campus housing facilities, said Robert T. Tad Perry, the Regents' executive director. "Phase Two calls for building another facility housing 300 students in 2006 or 2007. A third

facility could be added if enrollments rise to a level where more bed spaces are needed," Perry said.

At SDSU in Brookings, immediate plans are to install new furniture and fixtures throughout the entire residence hall system. Over the next three years, all 1,400 rooms on campus will be updated, removing fixed furnishings and replacing them with new movable beds, desks, dressers, and chairs, along with lighting improvements and new floor and window coverings. "This new style of movable furnishings allows students to define more than 40 percent of the space available in a room," Perry said.

Also in the first phase of SDSU's project, living space in some residence halls will be reconfigured to create separate sleep and study areas for students, resulting in 184 units with adjoining rooms. A rate increase of \$150 per semester starting in fall 2003 will cover costs of Phase One. In a later phase starting in FY05, SDSU plans construction of a \$4.5 million, 160-bed suite-style residential facility with semi-private bathrooms and air conditioning. Also planned is installation of air conditioning in Mathews Hall to accommodate people attending summer conferences on campus. ■