



REGENTS UPDATE

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Report Card on Higher Education Offers Challenges, Opportunities

Measuring Up 2002, a report issued by the National Center for Public Policy and Education, grades states on their performance in five categories: preparation, participation, affordability, completion, and benefits. South Dakota received Bs for college participation and completion rates, and a C in preparing students for higher education. It earned a D+ for benefits the state accrues from higher education and a failing grade in affordability. The report looked at both public and private higher education institutions.

"In measures of affordability, we always fare poorly when compared to other states because South Dakota does not offer state-based financial aid," Perry said. "Clearly, we believe the state and its citizens would benefit immeasurably from a state scholarship program and other enhanced financial aid benefits."

Despite the state's low grade in affordability, there are some bright spots there, Perry noted. The overall cost to attend South Dakota's public universities compares favorably to costs in other states. And, the Measuring Up 2002 report reported South Dakota is a top-performing state on the low average loan amount that undergraduate students borrow for their higher education.

Perry said South Dakota's public higher education system should get more credit for efforts it has made to gauge student learning, an indicator which was marked "incomplete" in the national study. Since 1998, the Board of Regents

has required all second-semester sophomores at its institutions to take a proficiency exam testing writing skills, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. "South Dakota is the only public system in the country that comprehensively measures student achievement, and our students need to meet a minimum score before they graduate," Perry said. "South Dakota students consistently score above the national norms on this exam."

However, since most states lack these kinds of data on the skills and knowledge of their students, the report said it was impossible to make state-by-state comparisons and gave all states an "incomplete" in the learning category. Perry is hoping South Dakota's work in this area will be recognized in future reports.

Perry said he was pleased to see South Dakota improved in college participation—from a C to a B-minus—since the first report card was issued two years ago. "More of our students are going on to college immediately after high school, and the percentage of working-age adults who enroll part time in postsecondary education also has improved," he said.

The report also noted that the percentage of South Dakota students who complete certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled is very high. "These participation and completion rates are encouraging. We need to continue to focus on improving those outcomes," Perry said. ■

SDSMT Presidential Search

Twelve people have been appointed by the South Dakota Board of Regents to serve as a Campus Advisory Committee to aid in the search for a new president at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

"The Campus Advisory Committee will work closely with the Board's search committee throughout the process," said Regent Pat Lebrun of Rapid City, who chairs the search. Other Regents serving on the search committee are James Hansen of Pierre; Shane Penfield of Lemmon; and Harvey Jewett of Aberdeen, ex officio member. Members of the advisory committee are H. Edward "Ed" Yelick; Pat Burchill; Dan Landguth; Deb Sloat; Carolyn Brich; Jan Puszynski; Alvis Lisenbee; Michael Langerman; Abe Kean; Marci Medalen; Antonette Logar; and Thomas Flickema.

Dr. Howard Peterson, chair of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Foundation, announced that commitments totaling \$1 million from anonymous donors have been received to support the university's new presidency.

The donors have committed \$100,000 per year for the next 10 years to reach the \$1 million donation. The \$100,000 will be added to the annual salary set for the new president by the South Dakota Board of Regents. The Regents have not yet determined that salary.

SDSMT President Richard Gowen is retiring July 1, 2003. More information on the presidential search may be viewed at <http://www.sdbor.edu/pres/SDSMTsearch.htm>.

New Academic Programs Expand Educational Opportunities

Approval was given to Dakota State University's plan to offer degrees in computer science and health information technology at USDSU in Sioux Falls by the South Dakota Board of Regents.

The DSU bachelor's degree program in computer science gives students a strong background in both the theoretical and applied areas of computer science. It stresses the technical and theoretical development of computer programs and systems. Graduates of computer science have an understanding of structured programming techniques, operating systems, computer architecture, and data structures.

The associate degree in health information technology program prepares students for technical work in hospitals, clinics, and related health facilities and agencies. Graduates are prepared to serve as entry-level medical record technicians. The medical record technician performs technical duties vital to the operation of a medical record department in any health care facility.

"By offering the computer science degree in Sioux Falls, DSU is creating extended opportunities for Sioux Falls area residents interested in the more technical aspects of information technology," said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. "As computer applications expand in business and industry so will the need in Sioux Falls for highly trained workers in the technology field. Graduates of the computer science program will be capable of filling job openings for computer programmers, analysts, and database administrators."

According to the South Dakota Occupational Outlook Handbook, job opportunities in the technology field will increase over the next 10 years. The South Dakota Department of Labor estimates that about 200 new jobs will be available in the field between 1998-2008. Increased job opportunities are also expected for the health information technology field. The Department of Labor predicts a 42 percent increase in the number of positions needed in this field in a 10-year period.

Approval was also given by the Regents to SDSU to plan to develop two new degree programs in global studies and software engineering.

"Employers are seeking graduates with more than a college degree. Increasingly, they are seeking students with strengths that extend beyond one's major discipline," said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. "Technology training, communication skills, demonstrated teamwork, internship experiences, customer-service skills, and overseas experiences increase students' marketability. Software engineering is the application of engineering concepts, methods, and tools to the development of software systems. This new program is closely aligned with electrical engineering and computer science. Graduates with a software engineering degree will meet South Dakota's growing demand for professionals in advanced technology."

The global studies major will provide a level of global expertise for selected students through advanced examination of physical, social, and cultural environments outside the United States. The existing area studies and topics (such as European studies and Latin American studies) will be incorporated within the new degree requirements. A specialization and emphasis in global studies will allow students to enhance their majors with a broader global knowledge and perspective. Students who want more in-depth study to achieve a global perspective will select the full major. ■

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State Universities Attracting Top Students

High-performing students are a larger percentage of new freshmen at the South Dakota public universities, according to the executive director of the South Dakota Board of Regents.

New freshmen with a composite ACT score of 24 or higher represent 37 percent of the public university students who graduated from South Dakota high schools in 2002, Robert T. Tad Perry said. In 2001, the percentage of same-year high school graduates with ACT scores of 24 or better was 35 percent. "We're pleased that efforts to attract the best students have resulted in a greater percentage of these students across the system," Perry said.

The percentage of same-year South Dakota high school graduates with ACT scores of 20 or below also declined from 39 percent in 2001 to 36 percent in 2002.

The analysis examined ACT scores of students who graduated from a South Dakota high school in 2002 and 2001 and who enrolled the following fall in one of the six public universities as a degree-seeking student carrying 12 or more credit hours. In 2001, there were 2,698 such students and 935, or 35 percent, had an ACT score of 24 or higher. This

year, there are a total of 2,786 students and 1,028, or 37 percent, had the 24 or higher ACT score. A perfect ACT score is 36.

"Three things are happening to account for this positive trend," Perry said. "Public universities are doing a better job of marketing. Students are making better choices about prerequisites. And, our high schools are better preparing those who come to the public universities.

"This is encouraging, because the research shows that students who are well prepared for college by taking rigorous high school courses, and who perform well on their college entrance exams, have a better chance of succeeding in postsecondary education," Perry said. He credited the universities' efforts to offer more scholarship opportunities for high-performing students, and especially the very successful work of university foundations to raise non-public dollars for scholarship opportunities.

Perry also noted the number of same-year high school graduates enrolled as degree-seeking students increased from 2,698 in 2001 to 2,786 in 2002, or 3.3 percent. Within this population, the number with ACT scores of 24 or higher increased from 935 to 1,038, or 9.9 percent. ■

**Composite ACT Scores of Same-Year SD High School Graduates
Enrolled in SD Public Universities as Degree-Seeking Students – System Totals**

| ACT Score | 2001 HS Graduates/Enrolled Fall 2001 | | 2002 HS Graduates/Enrolled Fall 2002 | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Total Number of Students | Percentage of System | Total Number of Students | Percentage of System |
| 28-36 | 262 | 10 % | 273 | 10 % |
| 24-27 | 673 | 25 % | 755 | 27 % |
| 21-23 | 705 | 26 % | 740 | 27 % |
| 18-20 | 734 | 27 % | 722 | 26 % |
| Below 18 | 305 | 11 % | 284 | 10 % |
| Missing | 19 | 1 % | 12 | 0 % |
| Total | 2,698 | 100 % | 2,786 | 100 % |

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State University System Reports Record Enrollments

A record 30,072 students enrolled this fall at South Dakota's six state universities, an increase of 4.3 percent over Fall 2001.

There are 1,244 more students reported in the system statewide over last fall's numbers, when headcount enrollment stood at 28,828. The enrollment figures were announced at the South Dakota Board of Regents' October meeting in Brookings.

"Over the last three years, our system has experienced enrollment growth in the 3 percent to 5 percent range," said Regents Vice President Rudy Nef. "At a time when many areas of our state are losing population, and high school enrollments overall are on the decline, it is encouraging to see

growth in our higher education system. As a board, the Regents will continue to deliver the message that South Dakota public universities offer students quality and value."

The Fall 2002 enrollment data show both the number of students and the credit hours they are taking have increased over last year. The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment for Fall 2002 is up 3.23 percent over a year ago. The FTE enrollment this fall stands at 23,167.7 students.

"The increase in full-time equivalent students is based on total credit hours generated by all students within the system," Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry said. "This increased course load translates into 725.7 more full-time students this fall over last year." ■

| Institution | Headcount | | | | Full-time Equivalent | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Fall 01 Total | Fall 02 Total | Enrollment Difference | Percentage Difference | Fall 01 Total | Fall 02 Total | Enrollment Difference | Percentage Difference |
| BHSU | 3,836 | 3,694 | -142 | -3.70 | 2,918.3 | 2,845.1 | -73.2 | -2.51 |
| DSU | 2,019 | 2,263 | +244 | +12.09 | 1,567.5 | 1,600.4 | +32.9 | +2.10 |
| NSU | 3,038 | 3,013 | -25 | -0.82 | 2,202.1 | 2,188.4 | -13.7 | -0.62 |
| SDSMT | 2,424 | 2,447 | +23 | +0.95 | 2,040.6 | 2,039.0 | -1.6 | -0.08 |
| SDSU | 9,350 | 9,952 | +602 | +6.44 | 7,663.9 | 8,172.8 | +508.9 | +6.64 |
| USD | 8,161 | 8,703 | +542 | +6.64 | 6,049.6 | 6,322.0 | +272.4 | +4.50 |
| Total | 28,828 | 30,072 | +1,244 | +4.32 | 22,442.0 | 23,167.7 | +725.7 | +3.23 |