



# REGENTS UPDATE

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## **Board of Regents Approves Transfer Process for Dual Credit Courses Center**

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The South Dakota Board of Regents modified its dual credit policy to allow for transfer of credit for certain college courses taught in high schools. At its January business meeting the Board of Regents revised its policy for the acceptance of high school courses for which students can receive college credit. By this action, the Regents agree to award transfer credit when the high school student enrolls in a state university if the college credit is granted by a university with which the Board has a dual credit agreement.

"This policy change recognizes that there are a number of fine dual credit programs operated by colleges and universities in South Dakota," said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett, Aberdeen. "About a year ago, the Regents became aware that some area postsecondary education institutions were transcribing courses as college level, even though the courses taught did not provide the content of a college course. Often the class would have some students taking the class for high school credit and

some students, who had paid the tuition, doing the same work for college credit. We found that when these students enrolled at a state university they often did not possess the knowledge that a real college level course would have given them. Since the Regents considered this a form of fraud, last year we promulgated a policy that we would award credit only if the credit was validated by an Advanced Placement or CLEP exam."

That policy, to go into effect after Spring 2002, caused some concern among high schools and the colleges or universities who sponsored the dual credit programs. "Some of the high schools objected to the requirement of an exam to validate the learning. After visiting with representatives from some of these higher education institutions, the Regents decided that there may be other ways to verify that the courses did actually teach college level material," said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry.

With the policy change, any college or university may

review its dual credit program with the Executive Director. If the instructor qualifications, course materials, and examinations meet the expectations of the Regents, the Board will enter into an agreement with that institution. Credit for courses offered under the agreement will be accepted for transfer.

"The Regents strongly urge ambitious high school students to get a jump start on their college careers," said Perry. "There are essentially three ways to do that. They can take Advanced Placement courses from high school teachers and then take the AP exam in the spring. All Regental universities accept AP credit. Students can also take CLEP exams in the fall when they enroll as freshmen. This is commonly known as "testing out" of a course. They can also successfully complete dual credit courses. These are courses that will meet the requirements for high school graduation and also for college entry level content. All of these options will save students time and money toward earning their degrees." ■

## Regents Review Functionality of Residence Halls

The South Dakota Board of Regents have completed a review of information concerning the public university systems' residence halls.

A task force was formed last June to conduct a system-wide review of the public universities' residence halls. The goal of the task force was to identify the needs of the system as well as student preferences for residence hall improvements.

"The Regents wanted this review because we realize the needs of our students have changed and we want our resident halls to meet their expectations. Ten years ago a student having a personal computer in his or her dorm room was the exception, not the norm. The Regents are trying to respond to the needs and wants of a different generation," said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry.

In order to provide a better picture of the overall needs and the conditions of the facilities at each campus the task force completed an inventory of the residence halls. Detailed information was compiled on the buildings' major components, condition of facilities, room features, building capacities, age, debt, value, and maintenance and repair needs.

The second component of the research conducted by the task force was a student

survey. In the survey students ranked their preferences for dorm improvements and their willingness to pay for them. More space was at the top of the survey responses along with semi-private bathrooms, better climate control, and increased electrical outlets.

"You would be amazed by what the average student can fit into a resident dorm room. Students don't want to go without the comforts they had at home, including their personal computers, stereos, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, refrigerators, microwaves, and almost anything else electrical," said Perry.

"Additional space and privacy was a common need identified on the survey," said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett. "Most of these kids didn't grow up with two or three children to a bedroom like their parents did. They had a larger degree of privacy and space growing up and we want them to have that at college as well."

The information gathered by the task force will be used by the Regents to decide on replacing, renovating or upgrading the residence facilities to provide students with living accommodations demanded by today's and tomorrow's students. ■

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## E-Learning Opportunities Expand at Northern

The South Dakota Board of Regents authorized development of proposals by Northern State University for a Master of Science in Education in E-Learning and Instructional Design. Authorization was also granted to NSU for the development of a proposal for a Master of Science in E-Learning Technology and Administration. The Regents approved a minor in E-learning and 16 new certificate programs to be offered at Northern.

"As one of the most wired states in the nation, South Dakota has evolved E-learning into an essential tool in South Dakota schools and businesses. The continued growth and effectiveness of E-learning in South Dakota has created a great demand for persons who are capable of planning, developing, and/or administrating the new technologies involved in distance education. Home to the Center for Statewide E-learning, Northern is the most logical choice for the new masters degree programs that will produce such graduates," said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry.

The proposed Master of Science Degree in E-learning and Instructional Design will be structured to prepare South Dakota students to assume larger roles in the state's nonprofit and business sectors as well as in the state's educational systems. Graduates of the program will meet the growing demand for people who can provide high quality courses and educational experiences using distance-learning technologies.

The proposed Master of Science Degree in E-learning Technology and Administration will be structured to prepare e-learning technology support personnel for schools, businesses, and the public sector to support delivery of technology-based learning curricula and to manage complex distance delivery programs. The program will provide graduates with a combination of technology skills, basic pedagogy, and administrative skills and knowledge. Although this degree will share a core of technology and pedagogy courses with the proposed M.S. ED. in E-learning and Instructional Design, the focus of the M.S. in E-learning Technology and Administration will be on technology support and administrative leadership. Within the M.S. degree, students will be able to pursue careers in K-12 schools, higher education, business, and government. They will be able to choose from four specialty areas: Technology Support for Schools and Business Education; Multimedia Design for Educational E-Delivery; Development of Educational Software; and Design and Administration of E-learning Networks.

The new E-learning will teach students a variety of strategies using several technological platforms. Classes will include lecture, discussion, hands-on application of skills and knowledge, practice teaching, case study, and student presentations. Students will learn through use of the Internet resources, WebCT on-line materials, multimedia presentations, interactive software, and through hands-on practice using Dakota Digital Network and videoconferencing technologies. The minor requires 18 credit hours. Sixteen new technology proficiency certificates have also been approved. The new certificates include e-learning specializations in: research, instructional design, software applications, digital video production, course delivery, computer maintenance and configuration, website administration, website design and development, database management systems, digital imaging, educational multi-media design and production, information technology management, network and telecommunications administration, object oriented programming, web application development. The new certificates consist of 9 to 12 credit hours including prerequisites and offer a specialized focus in E-learning.

Graduates in the E-learning field will fill current and future needs for distance education professionals. The need for E-learning professionals in business is predicted to increase dramatically. According to *E-learning Magazine*, September 2001, experts predict that U.S. corporate spending on E-learning will rise from \$550 million in 1998 to \$14.5 billion by 2004. The U.S. Department of Education reported that enrollment in distance education has more than doubled in the past three years. In South Dakota, the Department of Education and Cultural Affairs Office of Technology reported that South Dakota E-learning courses offered across the Digital Dakota Network went from zero in 1999 to 69 courses in Fall 2001. In Fall 2001 DDN served more than 1,000 students. Distance education courses offered through South Dakota public universities served a total of 3,168 students in Fall 2001. ■

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## **Board of Regents Appoints Dahlin as Acting USD President**

Donald Dahlin has been appointed by the South Dakota Board of Regents to serve as acting president of the University of South Dakota (USD), in the absence of university President James W. Abbott. In December 2001, the Regents granted Abbott a leave from his responsibilities as university president upon his announcement of his intentions to campaign for governor of South Dakota.

“Vice President Dahlin has a long and distinguished career at USD,” said Regents President Harvey Jewett, Aberdeen. “He has served in a number of leadership positions at the university and in state government. We are convinced that he has the experience and knowledge to oversee the university and grateful that he is willing to accept this responsibility at this time.”

Since 1966, when Dahlin joined the USD faculty, he has served in various academic and administrative positions, including professor and chair of the political science department, director of criminal justice studies, and acting dean of continuing education. He was named academic vice president in 1997. “I have enjoyed my tenure at this university and I appreciate this vote of confidence from the Regents. I intend to carry on current plans for university advancement.

Many faculty have dedicated time and resources to a major academic program review currently underway. We will move that initiative forward,” said Dahlin. “Opportunities such as this do not come along often, and I am excited at the challenge,” he added.

Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry said, “The Regents granted Jim Abbott a leave of absence to pursue elective office. With his long tenure at USD, Dahlin has the respect of the faculty and the faith of the Board. He is obviously the right person to step in on such short notice.”

Throughout his career, Dahlin has also served in state and federal offices and commissions. In the 1970s, following service with the U.S. Justice Department, he was South Dakota secretary of public safety under Governor Richard Kneip. He served on Governor George Mickelson’s corrections commission. From 1997 to 1999 Dahlin was a member of a five-person commission on the advancement of federal law enforcement.

In the same action the Regents also named Royce Engstrom, USD associate academic vice president and dean of the graduate school, as the acting academic vice president. ■