



REGENTS UPDATE

A Publication of the South Dakota Board of Regents

February, 2001

Course Requirements Set for Regents Scholars Program

High school students are now required to complete specific courses in order to be a Regents Scholar.

“The Regents have offered the Regents Scholars diploma for many years,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett, Aberdeen. “Any South Dakota high school graduate who earns the diploma is offered automatic admittance to any one of the six public universities. Now that the Regents Scholars curriculum has become the foundation for the Governor’s proposed scholarship, we thought that we should clarify specific course requirements so that students would know what to study.”

The Regents did not increase the total number of courses required or the number in each subject area, said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “The Regents have identified courses or areas of emphasis that they think will prepare a student to perform college work.”

Graduates must also have a final grade no lower than a "C" in

a course and have an average grade no lower than "B".

The course requirements for a Regents Scholars diploma are:

- 4 units of English with emphasis on grammar, composition, or literary analysis; one year of debate

may be included to meet this requirement

- 4 units of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or other advanced mathematics including accelerated or honors mathematics (algebra) at the 8th grade level
- 4 units of science including 3 units of biology, chemistry, or physics in which at least one regular laboratory period is scheduled each week; accelerated or honors science (biology, chemistry, or physics) provided in 8th grade is acceptable
- 3 units of social studies in history, economics, sociology, geography or government
- 2 units of a modern or classical language; American

Sign Language is considered a modern language

- units required for fine arts will meet the minimum requirement for high school graduation established by the South Dakota Board of Education
- ½ unit of computer science, including basic keyboarding, word processing, database and spreadsheet packages, and Internet or other wide area networks.

“Students and their families need to be aware that course selection is very important as they plan their high school curriculum.

Every math course has to be on the algebra track. Credits in consumer or business math will not meet the criteria,” said Perry.

Perry added that, if the Regents Scholarship proposal advanced by the Governor is funded by the Legislature, the course requirements approved today will be the criteria for deciding who will receive the scholarships. ■



Regents Scholarships

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature to give scholarship money to Regents Scholars. *Senate Bill 239*, proposed by Governor Janklow, would provide Regents Scholars with up to \$9,000 (\$1,500 first year, \$2,000 second year, \$2,500 third year, and \$3,000 fourth year) in scholarship money to be used at one of South Dakota's public universities or technical institutes.

Governor Janklow proposes to fund the scholarships from the tobacco settlement, which he regards as reimbursement for public revenues directed to pay for tobacco related health care costs. With the replacement revenues, funds are available to support programs at the state universities and technical institutes. Supporting public postsecondary education is the responsibility of state government, according to Governor Janklow.

Governor Janklow Views Work by Technology Grant Winners

On January 23rd winners of Governor Janklow's Faculty Awards for Teaching with Technology displayed their work in the South Dakota Capitol Rotunda. The faculty awardees were available throughout the day to demonstrate their projects for legislators and the general public.



Governor Janklow created the awards in 1998 to give faculty time and resources for redesigning courses to integrate applications of technology. Since 1998 over 170 faculty have participated in the awards program that has received over 3 million dollars in the past three years. The faculty displaying their work at the Capitol were those who received their award in 2000.

"By sponsoring these awards Governor Janklow has shown his commitment to helping South Dakota's public universities produce students who are trained in modern technology. The Regents are pleased with the results of this program and that the Governor has decided to sponsor the awards in 2001 as well," said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry.

The photo to the left shows Peggy Larsen, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of South Dakota explaining to Governor Janklow the details of her technology project.

South Dakota Electronic University Consortium to Provide Distance Education to the Army

Distance education courses from South Dakota's six public universities will be part of the Army University Access Online Initiative. An estimated 80,000 servicemen across the globe will have the opportunity to receive educational content through the South Dakota Electronic University Consortium (EUC). Courses will be available at every army base and through the Internet all over the world.

On December 13th, Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera announced that the Army awarded a multi-million contract to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to provide distance education for soldiers over the next five years. The soldiers will be equipped as students with the latest technologies and quality online learning experiences to place the Army at the forefront in distance education. As a member of the PwC e-Learning Network the EUC will join several other distance education providers in offering educational content.

All online courses offered by the EUC will be part of the initiative along with seven technology degrees from Dakota State University. The technical degrees include associate, bachelor and masters degree programs. Examples of the degrees include Computer Information Systems, Electronic Commerce and Computer Education and Technology.

"This is an incredible opportunity for South Dakota. It demonstrates the quality of distance education in the state and documents that we are among the world leaders in distance education delivery. The initiative will also generate revenue for South Dakota public higher education, since the courses offered through the EUC are self-supporting. The foresight of the Governor and the Board of Regents to create the EUC was the major factor in becoming part of this important initiative," said Janet Lewis Chief Operating Officer of the EUC.

The Electronic University joins with USD and the Learning Resources Network to offer a Master of Arts in Education Administration Online

The Board of Regents made it possible for another complete degree to be earned through distance education. The Regents authorized the Electronic University Consortium (EUC) to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Learning Resources Network (LERN) to provide a Master of Arts degree in Education Administration with an emphasis in higher education via the Internet. The University of South Dakota will be granting the degree in collaboration with the other regental universities that have appropriate coursework online.

The ability to earn the degree online is the result of an agreement between USD, the EUC, and LERN. LERN, an international association that provides programming, resources, and information to providers of lifelong learning programs is the largest adult and continuing education association in the world with more than 4,000 members in 16 countries. LERN is also the largest provider of education for administrators of continuing education programs in the world serving more than 2,000 administrators a year.

Participants in this program include consultants, trainers, college faculty, and other individuals maintaining membership in LERN. They will be allowed to apply validated LERN-sponsored courses and programs toward the Master of Arts in Educational Administration (Adult and Higher Education emphasis), but will be required to complete the majority of the degree program through the University of South Dakota.

"The ability to complete the entire degree

program online will enable participants to study from their various locations without having to interrupt their current professional endeavors. Knowledge accrued through the degree program will enhance graduates' professional abilities within the fields of adult and continuing education. This agreement is about bringing education to the people," said EUC Chief Operating Officer Janet Lewis.

This agreement is for courses that are provided on a self-supporting basis. Therefore no state general fund dollars will be used. Consequently this will bring into the state new revenues needed to drive the development and delivery of high quality education that will benefit the citizens of the state.

"We are pleased at the chance to partner with EUC and with LERN, a widely respected international leader in continuing education. In providing this opportunity for graduate study to continuing education professionals from around the country, we will be providing a real service by allowing these students to enhance their skills without giving up their jobs. We also believe that this partnership will allow us to showcase to the nation the high quality education that USD and public higher education in the state provide. This partnership will directly benefit the citizens of South Dakota as the partnership will provide a source of funds that will enable our faculty to develop courses for Internet delivery more quickly than would be the case if we had to rely exclusively on state resources," said USD Vice President of Academic Affairs Don Dahlin.

The South Dakota Board of Regents published 650 copies of this document at an approximate cost of \$0.10 per copy.

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Higher Education Conference

On January 3rd, the Board of Regents and university foundations hosted a conference for the enhancement of higher education in South Dakota. "The purpose of the conference was to strengthen and create partnerships that would benefit higher education," said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett.

Present at the event were the Regents, university leaders, friends of the universities, individuals from the institutional foundations and state policy makers. The President of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Patrick M. Callan, spoke to the guests about the national higher education report card and South Dakota's performance. The conference also included roundtable discussions and a panel discussion with state policy makers.

"It was a great day," said the Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. "The conference was an excellent opportunity to generate dialogue between groups of people that have a common interest in higher education. I think we learned much about each other's roles and how we can work together to benefit higher education in South Dakota. Over one hundred people attended this inaugural conference."

Requirement Change a Good Move

The Board of Regents is behind the recent change in high school graduation requirements. The results of the high school feedback report showed that 19 percent of the Fall 1999 South Dakota high school graduates attending as freshmen at one of the six state universities enrolled in remedial mathematics or remedial English. They were not prepared to do university level work in those subjects.

"We know that taking the more demanding courses in high school positively impacts a student's ACT score and readiness for college," said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. "That is why the Regents support the State Board of Education's change in high school graduation requirements. Right now a South Dakota high school student can graduate with only 2 years of math or 2 years of science. The new rule will require those entering ninth grade in Fall 2001 to earn another math or laboratory science unit. By the time these students are ready for college their performance should boost South Dakota's grade on the report card."