



# News Release

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## **Perry Serves on National Higher Ed Accountability Committee**

PIERRE, S.D. – A new report on higher education accountability is out, and the executive director of South Dakota’s Board of Regents chaired a national committee that laid the initial groundwork for today’s findings.

Robert T. Tad Perry is chairman of the accountability committee for the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), a national association of chief executives of statewide boards for higher education. SHEEO organized the National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education to recommend ways of improving accountability and performance in higher education.

Perry said the commission recommends new strategies to hold higher education accountable for its results. “We need to focus more on state and national priorities, identify visible goals for improvement, and do a better job of assessing higher education’s performance,” Perry said. “These are the kind of issues that South Dakota’s higher education system grapples with on a daily basis.”

Among the national commission’s recommendations:

- Create statewide data systems across all levels of education to better guide policy and budget decisions;
- Focus on the critical transition from high school to college;
- Assess college-level learning statewide through a variety of assessments, including professional certification and graduate admissions exams;
- Invest more in quality teaching at all levels of education;
- Establish higher education goals based on broad state needs and priorities, such as student retention and achievement, workforce needs, and economic development.

“The commission stressed that business and civic leaders are key players in communicating what they expect and need from higher education,” Perry said. “To that end, business leaders, public officials, and educators must spend more time talking with each other in meaningful ways.”

For a copy of the final report and more information on the National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education, see <http://www.sheeo.org/account/comm-home.htm>.