



# News Release

Contacts: Robert T. Tad Perry, Executive Director  
tadp@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Information & Institutional Research  
janellet@sdbor.edu

T: 605.773.3455

F: 605.773.5320

www.sdbor.edu

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Thursday, March 24, 2005

## **Student Groups from SDSM&T, BHSU Recognized**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents presented awards Thursday to student organizations from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and Black Hills State University.

“We are very proud of these and all our student organizations,” School of Mines President Charles Ruch said. “They have such an important and lasting impact on other students, the community and the university as a whole. I am always amazed at the dedication and commitment these students show in making the School of Mines and Rapid City better places to study, live, and work.”

“The students in these organizations deserve our recognition,” said Judith Haislett, vice president for student life at BHSU. “These students not only focus on their classes and building a career, but also have made time to serve the community, educate us about other cultures, and model academic excellence. We are very proud of them.”

The SDSM&T groups receiving recognition are:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The Residence Hall Association fosters a positive and safe living environment for more than 500 students on the Tech campus. The association helps set policies for residence halls, as well as planning activities and events to get students more involved in residence life. Last fall, undergraduates living in Tech residence halls earned an average GPA of 2.965, which was .231 higher than the campus-wide undergraduate average.
- **Community Service Award** – The SDSM&T Student Association created the “Miner Project” as a team building community service project. Student senators have planted flowers at a children’s home, cleaned up trash on the Rapid City Regional Hospital grounds, volunteered at the public library, conducted a campus-wide cleanup, and helped raise funds for tsunami victims.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The SDSM&T Student Chapter of Materials Advantage includes the American Society for Minerals; the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society; the American Ceramic Society; and the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering. The chapter is devoted to the professional development of materials and metallurgical engineering students. The group sponsors

## Student Awards – 2

seminars and uses demonstrations to interest K-12 students in these fields of study. Student membership in the chapter increased by 40 percent last fall.

The BHSU student groups that were recognized Thursday are:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – Scientia serves BHSU through science-oriented activities, student leadership, and campus involvement. Scientia students recently presented their research projects at the South Dakota Academy of Science Symposium. Members also volunteered to assist with NASA Space Days and the Cecil Haight Arboretum Project. They work with the campus recycling program, campus Quiz Bowl, and other university activities.
- **Community Service Award** – CURE (the Community-University-Resource-Exchange) at BHSU creates volunteer links between the campus and surrounding communities. Campus volunteers are connected to community, organization, or individual needs in the Northern Hills area. This year, CURE sponsored the first community-wide Make a Difference Day in the Spearfish area, organizing more than 30 service learning projects that involved 400-plus volunteers.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – Bones Anime at BHSU educates people about Japanese animation, known as anime. The group also promotes Japanese culture and language. Each month, members hold writing, drawing, or trivia contests to increase their knowledge and commitment to the organization. The club created a professional monthly newsletter that features in-depth articles about the art of anime.