



News Release

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SDSU Plans New Biochemistry Major; Adds Education Degree to Pierre Offerings

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents has given South Dakota State University the green light to plan for a new undergraduate degree in biochemistry, while it also approved the university's plans to offer a graduate education degree for the first time in Pierre.

“This biochemistry major will support the governor’s 2010 Initiative to expand university research and technology contributions to the state’s economy,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett. SDSU officials will prepare a plan and bring specifics back to the regents later. If approved, the new program may be available within the next academic year.

A bachelor’s degree in biochemistry was previously offered, but it was among several small-enrollment programs eliminated by the regents in 1996. Renewed student interest now appears to justify establishing a new major in the field, university officials said. No new state resources would be requested to develop or implement the program.

In other action, regents authorized SDSU to offer its master of education in educational administration at Capital University Center in Pierre. The program is expected to enroll about 15 students initially, starting this fall.

“Opportunities for students in the Pierre area to pursue graduate work in the education field have been limited in the past,” Jewett noted. “Local educators approached Capital University Center about the feasibility of offering a program that leads to a graduate degree and a principal’s endorsement.”