



# 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

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## State Universities Post Nearly 3 Percent Gain

PIERRE, S.D. – Total enrollment in the South Dakota public university system was up nearly 3 percent this fall, the South Dakota Board of Regents announced Tuesday.

“At a time when South Dakota’s traditional college-age population is declining, it is good to see continued growth in our higher education system,” said Regents Executive Director Robert Tad Perry. “To maintain and increase our enrollment into the future, we must continue to work on strategies to build our bottom line.”

Total headcount at the six public universities for the Fall 2005 term is 30,720, an increase of 876 students, or 2.94 percent, over a year ago. The number of full-time equivalent students—based on total credit hours generated by all students within the system—increased by about 556, or 2.36 percent.

To offset declining numbers in the high school-age population in South Dakota, Perry said the regents’ goals are to:

- Increase the proportion of high school graduates going on to college;
- Retain more students once they are in the public university system;
- Create tuition-friendly policies for border-state students;
- Enroll more non-traditional students;
- Keep South Dakota students in state for their higher education careers; and
- Create transfer agreements that make it easier for technical school students to pursue a four-year degree at a South Dakota public university.

### South Dakota Public Higher Education: Fall 2005 Enrollments

Institution	Headcount				Full-time Equivalent			
	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference
BHSU	3,846	3,888	42	1.09%	2,909.7	2,934.6	24.9	0.86%
DSU	2,295	2,329	34	1.48%	1,514.1	1,504.9	-9.2	-0.61%
NSU	2,284	2,528	244	10.68%	1,898.3	1,951.7	53.4	2.81%
SDSMT	2,345	2,313	-32	-1.36%	1,908.3	1,910.2	1.9	0.10%
SDSU	10,954	11,021	67	0.61%	9,168.4	9,262.8	94.4	1.03%
USD	8,120	8,641	521	6.42%	6,134.8	6,525.2	390.4	6.36%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,844</b>	<b>30,720</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>2.94%</b>	<b>23,533.6</b>	<b>24,089.4</b>	<b>555.8</b>	<b>2.36%</b>

