



# News Release

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## Student Organizations Recognized for Service

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Student organizations from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and Black Hills State University were recognized for their outstanding academic, community, and organizational work by the South Dakota Board of Regents this week.

Student organization award winners from SDSMT were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence – Engineers and Scientists Abroad** founded its first chapter at School of Mines in 2006. The group promotes the welfare of underdeveloped communities through practical applications of engineering and science. Nine students traveled to Chile last year to help build a vocational school for orphans. They assessed water quality, concrete strength, and alternative energy sources and helped with site surveys. The group is working on a second partnership in the country of Suriname.
- **Community Service Award** – The **Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE)** supports the industrial engineering profession with an emphasis on improving quality and productivity. The group has grown through community outreach, fundraising events, membership, and social events. Participation in two new events this year—the Kids’ Science Series and Spring Career Fair—provided more opportunities for members’ community involvement.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – SAE is a membership society dedicated to advancing mobility engineering worldwide. As a team at SDSMT, the purpose of **Baja SAE** is to develop a vehicle for Baja SAE competition, promote positive off-road activities, and support outreach programs to schools and civic groups. Baja SAE’s activities allow students from all academic backgrounds to compete internationally, and provide an outlet for students to use their college education in real-world settings. The local team hosted the Baja SAE South Dakota competition in May 2007.

Student organizations honored at BHSU were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The **Collegiate Outdoor Leadership Program** is a student-led organization for outdoor education majors and other outdoor enthusiasts. The main focus for the group last year was to expand and improve its indoor rock wall. In

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partnership with the city of Spearfish, the group also taught younger students about climbing and environmental issues. The group participated in the Go Green Day on campus, and completed maintenance and clean-up projects at Custer State Park.

- **Community Service Award – Students in Free Enterprise** are actively involved in many community service projects. Activities this year have included reading to preschoolers, a stuffed animal drive for the Artemis House, the Angel Tree Christmas project, and a global markets project with home-schooled students. The group also collected used printer cartridges and cell phones; the money raised was put toward a project that lends micro-loans to entrepreneurs in under-developed countries.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership – The Psychology Club** is a social and academic organization involved in fundraisers, volunteer work, and social activities on the campus and within the community. Members strive to integrate what they have learned in the classroom with community service projects. Among their activities, they play bingo with residents at a local retirement home, help fingerprint children for Project ID, and coordinate a dance for clients of Northern Hills Training Center.

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**SDSMT Award for Academic Excellence – Engineers and Scientists Abroad**

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**SDSMT Community Service Award – The Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE)**



**SDSMT Award for Organizational Leadership – SAE**



**BHSU Award for Academic Excellence – The Collegiate Outdoor Leadership Program**

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**BHSU Community Service Award – Students in Free Enterprise**



**BHSU Award for Organizational Leadership – The Psychology Club**