

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**

**AGENDA ITEM: I – D**

**DATE: June 11-12, 2014**

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**SUBJECT: Veteran Students: Enrollment and Progression**

This report examines the participation of military veteran students in the Regental system. Analysis focuses on these students' enrollment patterns, retention outcomes, and degree completions.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Information only.



\*\*\* Special Data Analysis \*\*\*

## *Veteran Students: Enrollment and Progression*

*As members of the military serving in Afghanistan and Iraq have continued to return home in large numbers, South Dakota's public university system has experienced a large surge of veteran students. This influx has introduced new challenges to the state's universities, which strive to provide effective administrative and programmatic support to this unique and growing group of students. This brief analysis provides a snapshot of data related to veteran students' enrollment patterns, retention outcomes, and degree completions in the South Dakota Regental system.*

### **Enrollment**

Table 1 below provides a basic cross-section of SDBOR's total population of veteran students during the Fall 2012 semester.<sup>1</sup> A total of 807 such students were enrolled in the university system during this term. A majority of this group (651 students) were undergraduates, while the rest of the population (156 students) were medical, law, and graduate students. By institution, USD was the largest enroller of veteran students (319).

**Table 1.**  
**Veteran Enrollment in Fall 2012**

<i>Level</i>	<i>EnrlStatus</i>	<i>SeekDeg</i>	<i>Load</i>	<i>BHSU</i>	<i>DSU</i>	<i>NSU</i>	<i>SDSMT</i>	<i>SDSU</i>	<i>USD</i>	<i>System</i>	<i>Undup</i>
<b>GR</b>	<b>Any</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Any</b>	10	7	2	17	23	82	141	136
<b>LA</b>	<b>Any</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Any</b>	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	14
<b>MD</b>	<b>Any</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Any</b>	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	6
<b>UG</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>FT</b>	19	1	1	15	24	30	90	89
<b>UG</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>PT</b>	6	3	0	7	10	31	57	27
<b>UG</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>FT</b>	5	0	0	2	0	0	7	7
<b>UG</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>PT</b>	47	42	15	19	27	45	195	109
<b>UG</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>FT</b>	82	2	10	55	104	49	302	296
<b>UG</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>PT</b>	45	7	3	13	36	62	166	123
<b>Total</b>				214	62	31	128	224	319	978	807

\* These figures do not include the 198 National Guard members who also were enrolled in the SDBOR system in Fall 2012.

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations used in Table 1:

<i>Level:</i>	GR = Graduate, LA = Law, MD = Medicine, UG = Undergraduate
<i>EnrlStatus:</i>	New = New and first-time transfer students, Other = All other students
<i>SeekDeg:</i>	Yes = Seeking a degree, No = Not seeking a degree
<i>Load:</i>	FT = Enrolled full-time, PT = Enrolled part-time, Any = FT and PT students combined
<i>"Undup":</i>	Total number of students when counting each student only once (rather than once per institution)

### **Retention Outcomes**

Second-year retention is an important indicator of student success in higher education. First-year students who do not return to college the following fall are far less likely ever to earn a degree. Accordingly, second-year retention rates (measured as the percentage of first-time students returning to school the following fall) are important performance indicators for colleges and universities in that they indicate how successful institutions are in supporting their incoming students.

Table 2 (below) has two subparts. Table 2a shows SDBOR's most recent retention rates for the general student population, while Table 2b shows analogous information for veteran students only. Comparing the two halves of this table, it can be seen that SDBOR's retention rate for veteran students (63 percent) was lower than the retention rate for all students (78 percent).

It is important to note, however, that these two tables use slightly different starting groups. In the Table 2a, the "*Fall 2012 Cohort*" line includes all full-time, first-time, bachelor's degree-seeking students. The veterans' table, in contrast, starts with full-time, first-time *and first-time transfer* students seeking *any undergraduate* degree. Because the second table starts with more "at risk" students (from a retention standpoint), it makes sense that the retention rates for this group would be somewhat lower.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 2a.**  
**Retention Rates from Fall 2012 to Fall 2013 (All Students)\***

	<b>BHSU</b>	<b>DSU</b>	<b>NSU</b>	<b>SDSMT</b>	<b>SDSU</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>System</b>
<b>Students Starting in Fall 2012</b>	483	283	332	441	2,075	1,221	4,835
<b>Enrolled in Same Univ in Fall 2013</b>	286	196	239	348	1,574	934	3,577
<b>Percent Retained</b>	59%	69%	72%	79%	76%	76%	74%
<b>Enrolled in System in Fall 2013</b>	322	209	255	367	1,634	968	3,755
<b>Percent Retained</b>	67%	74%	77%	83%	79%	79%	78%

\* Includes full-time, first-time students seeking a bachelor's degree

**Table 2b.**  
**Retention Rates from Fall 2012 to Fall 2013 (Veterans Only)\***

	<b>BHSU</b>	<b>DSU</b>	<b>NSU</b>	<b>SDSMT</b>	<b>SDSU</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>System</b>
<b>Students Starting in Fall 2012</b>	19	1	1	15	24	30	90
<b>Enrolled in Same Univ in Fall 2013</b>	14	1	0	12	15	15	57
<b>Percent Retained</b>	74%	100%	0%	80%	63%	50%	63%
<b>Enrolled in System in Fall 2013</b>	14	1		12	15	15	57
<b>Percent Retained</b>	74%	100%	0%	80%	63%	50%	63%

\* Includes full-time, first-time and first-time transfer students seeking an undergraduate degree

<sup>2</sup> This adjusted definition for the veterans' starting group was used in order to expand the analysis to include an adequate number of veteran students.

### *Degree Completions*

Degree production is another important indicator of institutions' effectiveness in creating a supportive environment for their students. Like Table 2 above, Table 3 has two parts. Table 3a depicts the number of degrees conferred by Regental universities over the last five years to all students. Table 3b shows comparable information for veteran students only.

These data show that rapid growth has occurred in the number of degrees awarded to veteran students in recent years, and that this growth far outpaces that of the general student population. While SDBOR universities awarded 16 percent more degrees in FY13 than in FY09 overall, growth in degrees conferred to veterans grew by more than 200 percent over the same time period. In total, the percentage of SDBOR degrees earned by veteran students has nearly tripled over this time period.

**Table 3a.**  
***Degrees Conferred to All Students: FY09-FY13***

	<i>FY09</i>	<i>FY10</i>	<i>FY11</i>	<i>FY12</i>	<i>FY13</i>
<i>Associate Degree</i>	423	419	432	413	485
<i>Baccalaureate Degree</i>	3,798	3,656	3,831	3,993	4,317
<i>Master's &amp; Education Specialist</i>	925	978	1,035	1,098	1,203
<i>Doctorate - Ph.D</i>	55	52	58	74	72
<i>Doctorate - Ed.D</i>	45	44	31	35	37
<i>Doctorate - D.Sc.</i>	1	2	2	4	4
<i>Professional</i>	210	209	210	240	237
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>5,457</b>	<b>5,360</b>	<b>5,599</b>	<b>5,857</b>	<b>6,355</b>
<i>Growth (Year-to-Year)</i>	-	-2%	4%	5%	9%
<i>Growth (All Years)</i>	-	-	-	-	16%

**Table 3b.**  
***Degrees Conferred to Veteran Students: FY09-FY13***

	<i>FY09</i>	<i>FY10</i>	<i>FY11</i>	<i>FY12</i>	<i>FY13</i>
<i>Associate Degree</i>	10	11	12	8	20
<i>Baccalaureate Degree</i>	34	31	36	89	120
<i>Master's &amp; Education Specialist</i>	13	12	14	16	24
<i>Doctorate - Ph.D</i>	0	1	0	1	2
<i>Doctorate - Ed.D</i>	0	0	3	1	0
<i>Doctorate - D.Sc.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Professional</i>	0	1	5	7	8
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>174</b>
<i>Growth (Year-to-Year)</i>	-	-2%	25%	74%	43%
<i>Growth (All Years)</i>	-	-	-	-	205%
<i>Veterans' Share of All Degrees</i>	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%