



# News Release

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## **Idaho Administrator Named New Board of Regents' Chief Executive**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The executive director of the Idaho State Board of Education/Board of Regents has been chosen to lead South Dakota's six public universities and two special schools. Michael G. Rush becomes the South Dakota Board of Regents' executive director and chief executive officer June 29.

"Mike Rush has committed his life's work to education, from his early career as a high school vocational agriculture teacher, then in state-level administrative work, to his current position supporting a state board with significant oversight over a majority of Idaho's budget," said Regents President Randy Schaefer. "His broad experience and strong advocacy for both higher education and K-12 education made him a perfect fit for South Dakota and the Board of Regents' strategic priorities."

Rush succeeds Jack R. Warner, who retires this summer after six years of service to the Board of Regents and 45 years devoted to higher education. Warner plans to return to Rhode Island, where he lived prior to his time in South Dakota.

Rush has been executive director in Idaho since 2007. He serves as the state's higher education executive officer, supporting a board with oversight over the majority of Idaho's budget. The state board governs Idaho's higher education institutions and also has general supervision over all public education, including community colleges. He also supervises agency directors for public television, professional-technical education, and vocational rehabilitation.

"South Dakota has a strong system of higher education, a committed board, and progressive higher education institutions," Rush said. "Together they represent a tremendous opportunity for creating a high quality of life and vibrant economy for all of South Dakota.

"I look forward to partnering with the regents, institutions, and special schools to enroll and graduate more students, improve the research and economic development capacity, and enhance the educational outcomes for all of South Dakota's students," he said.

"I have been impressed with the dedication and genuine hospitality of everyone I have met," Rush said. "I am looking forward to joining the team."

Prior to his time as executive director of Idaho's state board, Rush served as an administrator, director of research, and state supervisor for the Division of Vocational Education, also in Idaho. He has experience as an assistant professor of agricultural and Extension education at The Pennsylvania State University, as an instructor of vocational and technical education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and as a secondary vocational agriculture instructor.

Rush is active professionally at the state and national levels, currently serving on the executive committee for the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) and as chair of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. He also represented United States' higher education at two international conferences.

He holds a doctorate of education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, as well as master and bachelor's degrees in agricultural education, both from the University of Idaho.

Rush currently resides in Boise, Idaho, with his wife, Linda. They have three sons and four granddaughters. He enjoys playing guitar, outdoor activities, and spending time with friends and family.