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## **New Minors, Certificate Programs Target Workforce Development**

MADISON, S.D. – An array of new minor and certificate programs approved this week by the South Dakota Board of Regents are aimed at meeting future workforce needs across this state and region.

In addition, the University of South Dakota received approval to offer its existing master of social work degree online and at an off-campus center in Rapid City to help fulfill a growing demand for social workers. The online program and courses delivered at Black Hills State University-Rapid City should produce about 15 graduates a year after full implementation.

Seven new minors were approved, enabling students to pursue a deeper understanding of a discipline or field of study beyond their major. Each undergraduate minor typically consists of 18 to 24 credit hours of study. The new minors approved Thursday were in:

- Environmental Science at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- Global Engineering at SDSM&T
- Computational Statistics at SDSM&T
- Military Science at SDSM&T
- Marketing at Northern State University
- Public History at NSU
- Sport Marketing and Media at University of South Dakota

Certificate programs usually require fewer credit hours to complete than a minor. They are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise within a focused area of study, addressing identified market and workforce development needs.

New certificate programs were approved at Black Hills State University, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, and South Dakota State University. A new graduate certificate in petroleum systems at School of Mines is aimed at expanding the skill set for working professionals and graduate students in petroleum and related fields. This 12-hour certificate matches up current trends in the profession and academic markets to prepare a future workforce in the oil and gas industries.