



News Release

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Board of Regents Announces Human Resources Director

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents announces that Kayla Bastian has been named as system director of human resources.

“This position is critical to the effective management of public higher education and the special schools in South Dakota,” said Mike Rush, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “Kayla comes to this position with a strong understanding of our system of public higher education in South Dakota. She also recognizes the importance of strategic partnerships between human resources and management.”

Bastian has worked in the regents’ central office since 2009, when she joined the Pierre staff as a human resources research analyst. Since then, she has served as human resources coordinator/analyst and most recently as assistant director of human resources. Before joining the regents’ staff, Bastian worked in human resources for Black Hills State University and as a retirement planner for the South Dakota Retirement System.

As the board’s assistant HR director, Bastian led several system-wide projects and guided development and administration of new practices and processes for human resources administration. She holds a B.S. degree in business administration from Black Hills State University and a master’s degree in organizational leadership from the University of South Dakota.

Her appointment, effective this week, fills a vacancy on the board’s senior management team, which reports to Rush as executive director. Bastian replaces Barbara Basel, who resigned to accept a position with the Maricopa Community College System in Arizona.