



News Release

Contacts: Mike Rush, Executive Director and CEO
mike.rush@sdbor.edu
Janelle Toman, Director of Communications
Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu

Telephone: (605) 773-3455
Fax: (605) 773-5320
www.sdbor.edu

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Board of Regents Announces Hiring of General Counsel

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents announces that Guilherme M. Costa has been named its incoming general counsel upon the retirement of long-time counsel, James Shekleton.

Costa began duties this week in the board’s central office in Pierre and will work closely with Shekleton in the weeks prior to Shekleton’s planned retirement early next year, said Mike Rush, the regents’ executive director and CEO.

“We are happy to have Guilherme join the system’s senior management team,” Rush said. “He brings valuable experience to this position in his past work as an associate general counsel and then as the deputy general counsel for a land-grant and primary research public university. His professional practice advising university administrators, with particular emphasis in the areas of student services, contracts, litigation, and compliance, will be immediately useful to the South Dakota higher education system. We look forward to his counsel.”

Costa most recently was the deputy general counsel for the University of Idaho. Working there since 2010, he advised university administrators on all areas of the law and was the primary attorney assigned to offices that provided student-related services, among those the dean of students, housing, registrar, financial aid, admissions, counseling, and international programs.

He previously was an associate in a Washington, D.C., law firm and also clerked for the general counsel’s office at the University of Notre Dame. Costa holds a juris doctor degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School, along with bachelor’s degrees in business administration and political science from the University of Florida.

Shekleton plans to retire Jan. 21 after 32 years of service to the South Dakota public university system, more than 26 of those as the regents’ legal counsel.

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Broadcasters: Guilherme Costa is pronounced (gwee-lee-AIR'-may COST'-uh); Shekleton is pronounced (SHEK'-uhl-ton)