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Student Groups Earn Regent Recognition

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents presented awards Friday to three student organizations from Northern State University.

"We are proud to have these three groups receive formal recognition from the Board of Regents for the positive impact they generate within the Northern community and the region," said Don Cozzetto, NSU's interim president. "Each of these groups represent the diverse interests that make up our institution. We are indeed proud and thank them for their efforts."

The NSU groups receiving recognition are:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The Northern State University English Club promotes cultural awareness through special events and opportunities for student work to be published. A weekly "open mic night" provides a venue for community poets to read their work. The club also sponsors professional readings and created a public book club focusing on classical authors. The club publishes student work in the Shelterbelt, a CD-Rom compilation of arts, music, literature, and short films. It also sponsors Flair, a monthly newsletter and cultural events calendar distributed throughout the Aberdeen community.
- **Community Service Award** – The NSU Masquers promotes dramatic activities at the campus and community level. Members volunteer to teach at and support the Aberdeen Community Theatre's Young People's Theatre program. The Masquers assist at high school one-act play festivals, the Aberdeen Oz Festival, and the Gypsy Day parade. Their service activities also include working with the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department and the Salvation Army on community projects.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The Northern Highlights Dance Team is one of the most visible student groups on campus, performing at many NSU basketball games and during homecoming activities. Team members also reach out to area high schools to promote their student organization and recruit new dance team members. The team conducts dance camps, including an annual July event for middle and high school students from Aberdeen and surrounding communities.