



News Release

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State University System Enrollments Hold Steady

PIERRE, SD –South Dakota’s public university system reported a total enrollment with little change from the previous year. The number of full-time equivalent students also showed virtually no change. Enrollment is at a plateau.

Total headcount at the six public universities stands at 29,844 this fall, a small increase of 128 students, or 0.43 percent, over Fall 2003 numbers. Full-time equivalent students—based on total credit hours generated by all students within the system—decreased slightly by 0.30 percent.

Enrollment figures were announced Tuesday in Pierre.

“Overall the Regents are very pleased with the enrollment at the universities.” said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “While growth is always appreciated, considering South Dakota’s decrease in high school graduates, a hold on enrollment is progressive.”

According to ACT (American College Testing) the number of high school graduates in South Dakota fell from 10,484 in 2003 to 9,870 in 2004.

Perry said South Dakota’s anticipated decline in the number of high school graduates will continue to drive the public university system to look for additional non-traditional students. “According to population predictions, South Dakota will have fewer people of traditional college-age. We will have to put additional focus on persons already in the workforce,” Perry noted.

South Dakota Public Higher Education: Fall 2004 Enrollments

Institution	Headcount				Full-Time Equivalent			
	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference
BHSU	3,873	3,846	-27	-0.70%	3,026.3	2,909.7	-116.6	-3.85%
DSU	2,295	2,295	0	0.00%	1,575.1	1,514.1	-61.0	-3.87%
NSU	2,616	2,284	-332	-12.69%	2,032.6	1,898.3	-134.3	-6.61%
SDSMT	2,454	2,345	-109	-4.44%	2,052.8	1,908.3	-144.5	-7.04%
SDSU	10,561	10,954	393	3.72%	8,799.6	9,168.4	368.8	4.19%
USD	7,917	8,120	203	2.56%	6,118.7	6,134.8	16.1	0.26%
TOTAL	29,716	29,844	128	0.43%	23,605.1	23,533.6	-71.5	-0.30%

Note: The 2003 NSU and system numbers have been revised to remove high school students enrolled in certain AP (Advanced Placement) courses taught with the assistance of NSU. These enrollments are not included in 2004 and the revision provides numbers that can be compared between the two years.