



News Release

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South Dakota High School Graduates Seize Opportunity

PIERRE, SD – A total of 826 high school graduates were recipients of the 2004 Opportunity Scholarship. The South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship is a new program that awards a \$5,000 scholarship over four years to qualifying high school graduates who complete the Regents Scholar curriculum and maintain certain academic standards. This is the first year the scholarship money was awarded.

“The number of recipients was much higher than anticipated. This is great news. By meeting all the requirements, students showed that they really took the scholarship opportunity seriously,” said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “Some students went as far as attending summer school to take that one last course needed to qualify.”

According to scholarship requirements students must attend a higher education institution in South Dakota, which gives students an extra incentive to stay in state for their education.

“I’ve shared the scholarship numbers with the Governor and several legislative leaders. They are pleased with the first year numbers and are committed to fully supporting the program,” said Perry.

Number of Scholarship Recipients Attending Various Institutions			
Black Hills State University	29	Dakota Wesleyan University	9
Dakota State University	23	Lake Area Technical Institute	1
Northern State University	31	Mitchell Technical Institute	1
SD School of Mines & Technology	67	Mount Marty College	16
South Dakota State University	354	National American University	2
University of South Dakota	174	Presentation College	3
Augustana College	81	Southeast Technical Institute	4
Colorado Technical University	2	University of Sioux Falls	28
		Western Dakota Technical Institute	1
		Total	826