



# News Release

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## **Regents Approve New Degree Options for Western South Dakota**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Action taken Friday by the South Dakota Board of Regents will bring more higher education opportunities to people in western South Dakota.

The Regents approved requests to expand existing degree programs to Rapid City, Spearfish, Mission, and Gillette, Wyo., and also approved new undergraduate minors for Black Hills State University and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

“We recognize the need, more than ever before, to deliver public higher education where and when our customers want it,” Regents President Harvey C. Jewett said. “We already are strongly focused on resource sharing and collaborative delivery of educational programs in South Dakota, so these new program options make perfect sense.”

While meeting on the SDSMT campus, regents took the following actions:

- Approved the University of South Dakota to begin offering its doctor of education degree in educational administration in Rapid City, starting in January. Faculty from USD, South Dakota State University, and BHSU will teach the courses, to be offered one weekend a month in Rapid City and via distance delivery to accommodate working professionals. The program allows students to specialize in either K-12 educational administration or adult and higher education.
- Authorized USD to offer its bachelor’s degree in criminal justice studies in Rapid City, starting next spring. It’s expected that 15 students will enroll in the program initially, growing to 21 by 2008. Demand for criminal justice graduates has grown as law enforcement and anti-terrorism programs ramped up in recent years.
- Gave students located in Spearfish the opportunity to earn specialized business degrees in a cooperative venture with Dakota State University at Madison. BHSU will host courses from DSU leading to a bachelor’s degree in management information systems (MIS) or a two-year degree in applications programming. At least 15 students are expected to initially enroll in the cooperative MIS program. Jewett said this arrangement allows students to complete most of their degree requirements by taking BHSU business courses, while DSU provides the technology courses unique to its mission.

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- Approved SDSU to begin offering the master of education degree in educational administration this fall at locations in Mission and Gillette, Wyo. “K-12 schools continue to experience a high turnover rate in principals,” Jewett said. “It is very difficult to pursue administrative studies, especially if you teach every day and then need to drive hundreds of miles to a university campus. This is an effort to bring instruction a bit closer for some of those teachers seeking advanced leadership training,” he said. SDSU estimates about 25 students will enroll in the program at Gillette and another 20 at Mission.
- Approved a new minor in marketing at BHSU, starting this fall. Officials say the minor will help business students more precisely target job opportunities without adding a second major, while it offers non-business majors helpful instruction in sales and retail management, marketing strategies, consumer behavior, and research.
- Authorized a new minor in occupational safety at SDSMT this fall, which can be added to any undergraduate degree offered at the Rapid City campus. “Employers tell us that safety in the workplace is a growing concern and they would like to see our graduates with more training in safety practices,” Jewett said.

In other action Friday, regents gave USD the go-ahead to begin planning for a master of public health degree. The demand for public health professionals will continue to grow as the state’s population ages, officials say, and graduates with an advanced public health degree will have in-demand skills in such areas as epidemiology, biostatistics, policymaking, and evaluation. USD hopes to begin offering the new program in fall 2005.