



# News Release

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## **Regents Recognize SDSMT and BHSU Student Groups**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Student-led organizations at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and Black Hills State University were recognized by the South Dakota Board of Regents Friday for academic excellence, community service, and leadership.

Darrell Sawyer, director of career planning, placement, and cooperative education at SDSMT, presented the SDSMT organizations to the board. “SDSMT appreciates the hard work these groups put forth. They are a great benefit to the campus and their community,” said Sawyer.

The SDSMT campus groups receiving regents’ recognition are:

- **Award for Academic Excellence-** The Society of Economic Geologists at SDSMT is an international professional organization for people with interests in the field of economic geology. SEG is a student chapter, one of 40 chapters worldwide, whose purpose is to inform, educate, and promote the field of economic geology while actively participating in campus and community events. SEG co-sponsors a weekly seminar series with the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, inviting speakers to lecture on various issues relating to the field of economic geology. The group also conducts educational field trips. Trips have included exploration of mines in New Zealand, coal mines in Wyoming, a platinum mine in Montana and gold panning in the Black Hills. SEG works with community schools, teaching children how economic geology impacts their daily lives.
- **Community Service Award** – International Students Inc. at SDSMT is a campus ministry group that focuses on service to the campus and community. One of its most helpful programs is the Friendship Family program. ISI recruits individuals and families throughout the Black Hills to befriend international students. Members provide a three hour course in cross-cultural relationships to those who are interested in participating. The goal is to bring more cultural awareness to the community. ISI members also are encouraged to pursue community service on an individual basis. Some organizations that they have assisted are the Cornerstone Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, and the Rapid City American Cancer Society.

- **Award for Organizational Leadership** –Alpha Delta Pi at SDSMT is a national social sorority founded on the principles of scholarship, leadership, service to others, and sisterhood. Sisters of Alpha Delta Pi learn leadership skills on campus and in the community. They volunteer with Girls Inc. and the Ronald McDonald House. On-campus activities include publishing articles in the campus newspaper and creating a Greek brochure to answer new and perspective member questions. Sorority members must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA, be a full-time student, and be involved with two other student organizations.

The BHSU student groups that were recognized Friday are:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** - The BHSU Psychology Club provides all students with a solid introduction into the field of psychology. Benefits of being a member include: belonging to study groups, gaining research ideas, resume building opportunities, and making friends through campus involvement. These benefits are provided through trips, social events, and community service. One activity the club participates in is the annual Rat Race, in which members train rats to race each other using the principles of operant conditioning. Other club activities include review sessions for psychology classes, research presentations, and the Northern Hills Training Center dance.
- **Community Service Award** – The Habitat for Humanity BHSU chapter serves three main functions: building and restoring homes for families in need, educating the BHSU campus and Spearfish community about poverty and substandard housing in the area, and raising funds for club projects and their local affiliate. The chapter also sponsors a spring break trip through Habitat for Humanity’s Collegiate Challenge Program. Members learn about other cultures, obtain new skills, and interact with college students from different parts of the United States. All BHSU students are welcome to join Habitat for Humanity.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The BHSU Residence Hall Association helps maintain a working relationship between the Department of Resident Life and the students who live in the residence halls. Members actively participate in campus activities, develop and recognize student leadership, and encourage positive community involvement. RHA sponsors 10 success programs, where each hall sponsors a success seminar/program each semester. Programs have included formal dance lessons, Cans 4 Bands (to assist the local food pantry), Health Smarts, Project Yellow Ribbon, and care packages for Artemis House, a local women’s shelter. Any person living on campus may be a member of RHA.

The BHSU student organizations were presented to the board by Judith Haislett, vice president of student life at BHSU.