



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2004

## **Board of Regents Announces New Hires**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents announces that Joshua Riedy is the new academic director of the regents' Electronic University Consortium, Lynda Oldenkamp has been appointed director of academic assessment, and Michael Merrill has been hired as the board's business integration specialist.

“We are pleased to have these higher education professionals, all with significant practical experience in their respective fields, join our team,” said Robert T. Tad Perry, the regents' executive director.

Riedy will manage the public universities' academic offerings available from the Internet, video conferencing, and other means of electronic delivery. He comes to the Board of Regents from South Dakota State University, where he has been distance education coordinator and an adjunct education instructor. Riedy also has worked in web design, technology training, and as a high school agricultural education teacher and coach.

He has a master's degree in career and technical education and a B.S. degree in agricultural education, both from SDSU. He is currently completing a doctor of education degree in higher education administration from The University of South Dakota.

Oldenkamp will coordinate teacher education assessment for the public higher education system. She most recently was employed by the regents as coordinator of the Teacher Quality Project. She previously held management positions in teacher education at Dakota State University and the South Dakota Department of Education. Since 1999, Oldenkamp has sat on the board of examiners for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, reviewing teacher education programs across the country.

She has a doctor of education degree in curriculum and instruction from USD and is conducting post-doctoral study in institutional research at Florida State University. She also holds an Ed.S. in educational administration and a master's degree in secondary education, both from USD, and a B.A. degree in history education from SDSU.

Merrill will serve as project manager for system-wide technology and online projects. He comes from Skagit Valley College, a community college in Washington state, where for nearly 11 years he served in business and administrative support roles. He holds a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.