



News Release

Contacts: Robert T. Tad Perry, Executive Director
tadp@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Information & Institutional Research
janellet@sdbor.edu

T: 605.773.3455

F: 605.773.5320

www.sdbor.edu

Five Finalists Chosen for Black Hills State University President

PIERRE, S.D. – Five candidates are finalists to become the next president at Black Hills State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents' search committee announced Thursday.

Regent James O. Hansen, who chairs the search process, said the five finalists will visit the Spearfish campus next Thursday and Friday (Jan. 19-20) for scheduled meetings with campus constituents. A search has been under way since September to replace Tom Flickema, who plans to retire as BHSU president July 1.

The finalists announced Thursday are:

- **Ronald L. Applbaum, president, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Pueblo, Colo.** Applbaum is in his fourth year as president at Colorado State University-Pueblo. Pueblo is a regional comprehensive university with more than 35 undergraduate programs emphasizing business, education, human services, technology, engineering, recreation, and the arts. The university also offers a select number of master-degree programs, including business, education, engineering, applied sciences, nursing, and English. He previously served six years as president at Kean University (N.J.) and more than six years as president at Westfield State College (Mass.). He was also a vice president of academic affairs at the University of Texas-Pan American. Applbaum holds bachelor's and master's degrees in communication from California State University at Long Beach. His Ph.D. in communication is from Pennsylvania State University.
- **Sandra M. Flake, provost, University of West Florida, Pensacola, Fla.** Flake has served as the University of West Florida's chief academic officer since July 2004. West Florida is a regional comprehensive university enrolling 9,600 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. Flake was also dean of arts and sciences at the University of Northern Colorado, dean of liberal studies at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and acting associate dean of the General College at the University of Minnesota. While on the General College faculty, she coordinated the college's reading and writing center and retention programs and taught courses in writing, development skills, and literature. Flake holds a bachelor's degree in English from the College of Saint Catherine and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
- **Brian Levin-Stankevich, interim president, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Wash.** Levin-Stankevich has been at Eastern Washington University for 10

years. He went to EWU in 1995 as vice provost for student affairs and enrollment management, later becoming vice president for student affairs, and since 2002, provost and vice president for academic affairs. In 2005 he was named acting president. Levin-Stankevich was a Fulbright-Hays Fellow and studied in St. Petersburg and Moscow for his dissertation in Russian history. He taught history at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., and at the State University of New York in Buffalo, where he also served in enrollment management and international program roles. He was also involved in immigrant resettlement in New York. At Florida Atlantic University, he served as director of enrollment management, acting dean of undergraduate studies, and associate dean of the Schmidt College of Arts and Humanities.

- **Richard Rafes, senior vice president for administration, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.** Rafes has served in his current position as senior vice president for administration at the University of North Texas since 2002. For 22 years prior to that, he was chief legal counsel for the University of North Texas System. His academic career includes serving as an adjunct professor at the University of North Texas for 25 years, as well as directing the Center for Education Law, Administration and Policy at the university. Rafes holds a B.A. in government from Lamar University and two doctoral degrees, a J.D. degree from the University of Houston Law Center and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of North Texas.

- **Kay Schallenkamp, president, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan.** Schallenkamp has served as president at Emporia State since 1997. Prior to that, she was provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and provost at Chadron (Neb.) State College. She started her higher education career at Northern State University in Aberdeen, where she began as an instructor of communication disorders in 1973 and ended her tenure there as dean of graduate studies and research in 1988. She holds the following degrees in communication disorders: a B.S. from Northern State University, a M.A. from The University of South Dakota, and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado.

Copies of finalists' professional vitae are posted at www.sdbor.edu/bhsu_finalists .

The Board of Regents will meet in executive session with the finalists during their campus visits. No action will be taken at these meetings.