



# News Release

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## **Board Approves University of South Dakota Occupational Therapy Participation in Student Exchange Program**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The Board of Regents approved an agreement that will allow The University of South Dakota to receive master of science in occupational therapy students supported by five western states.

The M.S. degree in occupational therapy at USD was approved to become part of the Professional Student Exchange Program operated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). USD's occupational therapy program is the first degree program in South Dakota to participate.

The Professional Student Exchange Program enables students to enroll in selected out-of-state professional programs, usually because those fields of study are not available at public institutions in their home states. Students pay reduced levels of tuition: for most students, resident tuition in public institutions or reduced standard tuition at private schools. The student's home state provides resources to help cover the cost of students' education. Fourteen fields of study are offered through the program. Each state decides whether to support students through the program.

“Participating in the Professional Student Exchange Program will allow USD to recruit additional students when there is capacity,” Regents President Harvey C. Jewett said. “And, the payments from states supporting occupational therapy students will offset the reduction in tuition,” he said. Only students supported by their state will pay the resident tuition rate.

WICHE states supporting occupational therapy students through the Professional Student Exchange Program are Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, and Wyoming.

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**On the Net:**

**Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education: <http://www.wiche.edu>**