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School of Mines Program Selected for
Western Regional Graduate Student Exchange

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The master's and Ph.D. degree programs in materials engineering and science, offered by South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, will become part of the Western Regional Graduate Program operated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). The South Dakota Board of Regents, meeting Thursday in Brookings, approved participation in the program.

The Western Regional Graduate Program offers students access to master's and doctoral degree programs that are of demonstrated quality and not widely available in the western region. SDSM&T nominated the materials engineering and science program and, after a review conducted by WICHE, the program was selected. More than 140 distinctive graduate programs are available to residents of WICHE states at in-state tuition rates.

Today's action allows graduate students from WICHE member states who enroll in the materials engineering and science programs at SDSM&T to qualify for the resident graduate tuition rate, rather than a higher out-of-state rate.

"Exchange programs are important to South Dakota for a couple of reasons," Regents President Harvey C. Jewett said. "This allows us to recruit additional graduate students into programs where we have capacity. The Western Regional Graduate Program also allows some of our students to pursue specialized programs elsewhere which are not offered in South Dakota," he said.

WICHE states participating in this program include Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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On the Net:
        Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education: http://www.wiche.edu