



# News Release

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## **Building Plans Advance in Sioux Falls**

SPEARFISH, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents, meeting Friday in Spearfish, approved plans for two building projects that will become a permanent home for public university courses and programs in Sioux Falls. Both projects earlier received approval from the state Legislature.

The buildings—one for classrooms and another for graduate education and applied research—will be situated on property in northwest Sioux Falls off West 60<sup>th</sup> Street North near interstates 29 and 90. “Approval of these facility plans means the projects can now move into the design phase,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett. “A design team will be selected in September, with design and bid documents ready by February. We should be able to begin actual construction next spring.” Occupancy of both buildings is tentatively set for fall 2008.

Preliminary plans for the 52,000-square-foot classroom building call for a two-story structure housing four general use classrooms, three Digital Dakota Network rooms, three seminar/study rooms, a computer lab classroom with 24 high-end workstations for graphics classes, an art classroom, and an open computer lab with 48 workstations. Faculty and administrative offices are also included, along with a bookstore, student commons, and food service. The legislature earlier this year appropriated \$8 million in state general funds for the classroom building.

The classroom facility will complement the already existing 64,000 square feet of leased classroom and office space that USDSU currently occupies on the Southeast Technical Institute campus nearby. USDSU will operate out of its existing facilities, as well as at the new site, until a time when it is viable to consolidate, Jewett said.

The graduate education and research facility, which has come to be known as the GEAR Center, will be about 35,000 square feet. Estimated cost is just under \$6.3 million, with \$4.3 million of that coming from federal grant funds. The remainder of the construction cost is covered by the state’s Higher Education Facilities Fund. This new space includes research labs, classrooms, and faculty and staff offices. “Over time, we see GEAR becoming a multi-phase building based on the demand for additional research space,” Jewett said.