



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

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Slight Enrollment Gains Set Record for Public University System

PIERRE, S.D. – Total enrollment in the South Dakota public university system was up slightly this fall, setting a new record enrollment of 30,901 students, the South Dakota Board of Regents announced Wednesday.

“This all-time high enrollment for the system, in the face of declining demographic trends, reflects the importance South Dakota places on higher education,” said Regents’ Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “It demonstrates a concerted effort by education at all levels to prepare students for higher education, with support from state-level policies like the Opportunity Scholarship and College Prep that encourage more participation in postsecondary education.”

Total headcount at the six public universities for the Fall 2006 term is 30,901, an increase of 181 students, or 0.59 percent, over a year ago. The number of full-time equivalent students—based on total credit hours generated by all students within the system—increased by about 55 students, or 0.23 percent.

Perry says the enrollment numbers validate South Dakota’s strong college participation rate. A national study this year said South Dakota’s college participation rate of 56 percent in 2004 was the 2nd best among all 50 states. Earlier this month, the national Measuring Up 2006 report card on higher education awarded South Dakota an “A” grade for showing substantial improvement in enrolling students in higher education. The state received a “B” on the same report card for its efforts to improve the preparation of students to succeed in college.

South Dakota Public Higher Education: Fall 2006 Enrollments

Institution	Headcount				Full-time Equivalent			
	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference
BHSU	3,888	3,896	8	0.21%	2,934.6	2,950.0	15.4	0.52%
DSU	2,329	2,439	110	4.72%	1,504.9	1,526.1	21.2	1.41%
NSU	2,528	2,319	-209	-8.27%	1,951.7	1,850.2	-101.5	-5.20%
SDSMT	2,313	2,124	-189	-8.17%	1,910.2	1,751.9	-158.3	-8.29%
SDSU	11,021	11,377	356	3.23%	9,262.8	9,461.5	198.7	2.15%
USD	8,641	8,746	105	1.22%	6,525.2	6,604.3	79.1	1.21%
TOTAL	30,720	30,901	181	0.59%	24,089.4	24,144.0	54.6	0.23%