



News Release

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SDSU President Receives Honorary Doctorate

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents awarded its highest honor Saturday to Peggy Gordon Miller, who will retire Dec. 31 as president of South Dakota State University.

The honorary degree, Doctor of Public Service, was presented to Miller in “recognition of extraordinary service and leadership to the South Dakota system of public higher education.” The degree was conferred at SDSU’s fall graduation ceremonies in Brookings. Regents’ officials say this title is reserved for individuals whose exceptional personal and professional contributions have merited special acknowledgement.

Under Miller’s leadership as president for the past nine years, SDSU grew into a Division I university serving a record 11,377 students. “The university we see today testifies to Peggy Miller’s efforts to increase scholarship opportunities, partner campus-based research activities with local and regional economic development, and upgrade the campus physical plant through new construction and renovation,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett.

Miller was acknowledged for creating the Jackrabbit Guarantee scholarship program and the Lead Forward Land Grant plan for SDSU. Under her leadership, SDSU earned the Carnegie Foundation designation as a research university with high research activity. Through her efforts, the Board of Regents created the Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence, a major research, teaching, and service center incorporating the combined strengths of SDSU and EROS Data Center scientists and scholars in a collaborative program.

Before coming to SDSU in 1998, Miller was a senior fellow and acting vice president for academic and international programs at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C. Miller served as president of the University of Akron from 1992-96 and chancellor at Indiana University Northwest from 1983-1992. She holds degrees from Indiana University, Northwestern University, and Transylvania University.