



# News Release

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## **Turman Recognized for Research and Publications**

PIERRE, S.D. – The academic assessment director for the South Dakota Board of Regents has earned recognition for his research and publications in the field of instructional communication.

Along with two co-authors, Paul D. Turman presented a paper at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, which was recognized as a top-four paper in the instructional development division. Turman and his colleagues presented findings of a study involving 651 undergraduate students at two Midwestern universities that tested two theoretical models associated with teacher confirmation behaviors.

“Teacher confirmation is basically a process whereby teachers communicate to students that they are valuable and significant individuals, and includes interpersonal behaviors that communicate a sincere interest in students,” Turman explains.

The study found that when instructors respond to students’ questions in ways that invite further interaction, communicate a sincere interest in students, and use an interactive teaching style to foster learning, these behaviors create feelings of success for students. In turn, those feelings enhance students’ perception of a teacher’s credibility and evaluation. Findings of the study were recently published in a national-level journal, *Communication Education*.

A second research focus of Turman’s is communication behaviors and messages by coaches and the impact they have on high school athletes. Turman authored a brief report published in *Communication Research Reports* that examined the influence of coach power on athlete sport satisfaction. He and a colleague also studied football coaches’ pre-game, half-time, and post-game speeches to evaluate the significance of this sport ritual, and presented a paper on those findings to the National Communication Association.

In April, Turman plans to present findings from two more research projects. One study used Web sites that rate professors as a basis for examining how student attraction to a teacher might influence student learning. The other examined how teacher behaviors on the first day of class predicted student evaluations at the end of the course.

Turman, a native of Pierre, was an associate professor in the communication studies department at the University of Northern Iowa prior to his work with the Board of Regents. His Ph.D. in communications studies is from The University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also holds bachelor and master’s degrees from South Dakota State University.



Paul Turman