



News Release

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Regents Recognize Student Groups

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents recognized outstanding student groups from the University of South Dakota at its meeting this week.

Student organization award winners from USD were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The **Vermillion Literary Project** promotes activities that encourage creative writing skills for students at USD and in the Vermillion community. One activity included a creative writing camp for high school students that offered information and guidance from college students and instructors in the areas of poetry, fiction, songwriting, and performance. The VLP also holds monthly poetry slams for the community to both participate in and enjoy. Extending their work outside of the community, students share local talent through the organization of podcats and weblogs.
- **Community Service Award** – The **Council for Exceptional Children** organizes several activities throughout the year. One of the activities this year involved recognizing elementary, middle and high school students who were an inspiration to special education student teachers. These students were publicly recognized at a reception and presented awards. Another activity the group held was the Exceptional Students of South Dakota Art Contest. Students from area schools submitted artwork to be judged. The artwork was then displayed and ribbons were awarded to the students.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – **Tiospaye U.** promotes leadership within the Native American population and to all students of USD. The group encourages leadership through Diversity Days by asking organizations of diverse populations to provide programming at the event. This event helps make the students of USD aware of cultural differences and similarities. Expanding their work outside of the USD campus, the Tiospaye members help sponsor events for the Lakota National Invitational in Rapid City. This event reaches 5,000 Native Americans across South Dakota.



Vermillion Literary Project



Council for Exceptional Children



Tiospaye U.