



News Release

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Report Offers Recommendations on Teacher Education

BROOKINGS, S.D. – A review of teacher education programs at five South Dakota public universities has turned up examples of world-class practices, along with some recommendations for change.

Among the recommendations is that mobile computing technology be integrated more completely into all preparation programs for secondary educators, as well as into a range of lower-level courses. “This is consistent with the Board of Regents’ belief that students whose education is now being delivered via laptops and tablets in the high school expect that same kind of experience when they reach college,” said Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “With the Governor’s laptop initiative reaching more South Dakota high schools, we must be sure our teacher education graduates are highly proficient in these technologies.”

Other recommendations from the system review include:

- Develop a common framework for all school-university partnerships and create partnership agreements with each school district in South Dakota.
- Create recruiting initiatives to attract students into the education field, including more support for effective programs leading to teacher certification for people who have already earned a bachelor’s degree.
- Develop a statewide assessment of teacher education program performance and link student unit records in the K-12 and higher education systems together.

“These recommendations, along areas of strength which the study also identified, will help us better align teacher education programs with the needs of PK-12 schools for qualified teachers,” said Sam Gingerich, system chief academic officer for the regents.

The review singled out several programs for recognition, including the **Teacher Learning Center at Black Hills State University**, established in partnership with the Spearfish School District at West Elementary School; **Dakota State University’s use of technologies** in all stages of its teacher preparation programs; and **The University of South Dakota’s Professional Development Center model**, a unique program that mentors new teachers into the profession.

Last fall, the Board of Regents launched the system-wide review of teacher education programs to determine how well its universities are preparing and supporting highly-qualified teachers and administrators for South Dakota schools. An outside expert, Charles Coble, led the review, which involved discussions with more than 100 people, including faculty, staff, students, legislators, school board members, state-level agencies, and K-12 school administrators and teachers. Dr. Coble is a former education dean at East Carolina University and has led development of university-school teacher education partnerships in the University of North Carolina system.