

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

www.sdbor.edu

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Regents Prepare to Make Deaf School Superintendent Choice

PIERRE, S.D. – A tentative offer has been made to Terry Gregersen to become the next superintendent at the South Dakota School for the Deaf, state officials said Wednesday.

A formal offer of employment is subject to final action by the South Dakota Board of Regents at its next meeting, said Robert T. Tad Perry, the regents' executive director.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to have been selected as the next superintendent of the South Dakota School for the Deaf," Gregersen said. "I look forward to the challenges that this position offers but more to the possibilities that it also presents to all of us stakeholders who have a vested interest in the school.

"I foresee a time when all of the stakeholders and the constituencies of the state of South Dakota will thrive in—what Dr. Francis Duffy, a noted university professor and author, called—a 'learning culture based on trust, commitment, and collaboration' on behalf of our deaf students," Gregersen continued.

Gregersen, of Riverside, Calif., was one of two candidates who interviewed for the superintendent's position July 23 in Sioux Falls. At that time, he also met with interested parties and constituents of the School for the Deaf. A search has been under way to replace Supt. Maureen Schloss, who returns to her faculty position at Northern State University this fall after three years at the school's helm.

Most of Gregersen's professional experience has been in the state of Washington, where he worked for 27 years in the Tacoma School District, first as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing and later as assistant special education director. At Tacoma, Gregersen was responsible for a dual-track education program providing both bilingual and auditory/oral instruction, similar to instructional programs provided at South Dakota's School for the Deaf. In 2005-06, he was director of instruction at the California School for the Deaf.

Gregersen is active in his community, serving as vice chair of the Riverside Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, and has been involved with deaf athletics for the Northwest Athletic Association of the Deaf for the past 34 years. He holds an education specialist degree from Gallaudet University, a M.S. degree in deaf education from Western Oregon University, and a B.A. in education from Seattle University.

