



News Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, August 10, 2007

SDSU Expands Online Offerings and Plans Biotech Degree

SPEARFISH, S.D. – Three master’s-level degrees at South Dakota State University will soon be available through online delivery. The South Dakota Board of Regents approved the university’s request to offer the M.S. degrees in engineering, industrial management, and mathematics by distance.

The regents also gave SDSU permission to begin to plan for a new undergraduate major in biotechnology. This inter-disciplinary degree would prepare students in fundamental sciences for careers associated with biofuels, agricultural, biological, veterinary, medical, and health science technologies. Once its plans are finalized, SDSU must return to the board for final approval of the program, which would likely be available starting in fall 2008.

Regents’ officials welcomed the new online program offerings, which begin this fall. “Online delivery of these programs will better meet the professional graduate education needs of many working engineering and technical professionals in our region,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett. “Both employers and employees have shown a strong interest in bringing these degree programs online, using the most advanced technologies and the most advanced learning environments.”

SDSU provided solid evidence of the strong support from regional employers for the professional-focused online engineering master’s degree. “There is very broad support from both employers and bachelor-trained engineers employed in the region for these programs that meet their demands for professional graduate education accessible online,” said SDSU President David L. Chicoine.

University officials also believe the online M.S. in industrial management will be the first totally Internet-based degree of its kind offered by an accredited U.S. institution, which will fill a unique niche in distance programming. The M.S. in mathematics online will include a statistics specialization. This meets a growing demand for professional-focused graduate education in computation sciences and statistics, particularly among companies and professionals in the financial services and health care industries, both important growth sectors in the South Dakota and regional economy.