



News Release

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Student Groups from BHSU and SDSMT Honored

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Student organizations from Black Hills State University and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology were honored for their successes by the South Dakota Board of Regents this week.

Student organization award winners from BHSU were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The **BHSU Reading Council** promotes literacy, with a specific emphasis on reading, language, and thinking. The council's primary goal is to encourage quality reading and language arts instruction, consistent with each person's unique capacity. This year, the council has focused its efforts on Reading is Fundamental (RIF), a federal program for schools in poverty areas. At their monthly meetings, council members also prepare resource packets for classroom use. By the time these members graduate from college, they have a complete reference library prepared for multiple genres.
- **Community Service Award** – **Chi Theta Xi** members volunteer at the local Humane Society, walking dogs and caring for other animals in the shelter. They have raised money by selling gift baskets for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, moving closer to their goal of earning \$5,000 to sponsor a child and grant that child's wish. During national Make a Difference Day, the group volunteered its time at the Spearfish Wildlife Sanctuary. They also sponsored a Halloween party for children at the Little Jackets Learning Center on campus, and assisted with the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project at Christmas time.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The **BHSU Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team** increased its membership by 50 percent this past year. The group developed projects to teach students about business ethics, entrepreneurship, financial success skills, and global markets. The team encourages its members to participate in at least one leadership training exercise, and emphasizes development of professional skills that enable students to become more employable. SIFE is currently seeking to consolidate various business student organizations on campus into one group in order to work more effectively together.

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Student organizations honored at SDSMT were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence – Material Advantage** is a joint chapter of the Materials Information Society and the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society. The group is devoted to the professional development of materials and metallurgical engineering students by promoting excellence and professionalism. Seminars were conducted with John Deere and Nucor Steel corporations. The group sponsored a Webcast to share more information about metals recycling. Material Advantage members are also active in campus leadership roles and have won scholarships from several professional societies.
- **Community Service Award – The Paleontology Club** has introduced young people to the wonders of paleontology through its many presentations. Members read dinosaur stories to preschoolers and toddlers, host a booth at the Girl Scout Jamboree, and give presentations on basic concepts, techniques, and tools used in paleontology. They have brought fossils into high school classrooms in Rapid City and Nebraska. Last January, four club members helped a local Boy Scout troop earn a geology merit badge.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership – Membership in the Drill and Crucible/Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration** doubled, due to a membership drive at the beginning of the year. The group took second place nationally for its membership efforts and was recognized at the annual society conference in Denver. Fundraising and networking have been focus points for the revitalized organization. The group won “best overall” for its entry in the M Week parade. Members and advisers help each other find internships, host bi-monthly meetings, and plan mining tours.

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BHSU Reading Council--Award for Academic Excellence

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BHSU Chi Theta Xi chapter--Community Service Award



BHSU Free Enterprise Team--Award for Organizational Leadership



SDSMT Material Advantage--Award for Academic Excellence

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SDSMT Paleontology Club--Community Service Award



SDSMT Drill and Crucible/Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration
--Award for Organizational Leadership