



# News Release

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## Record Number of Opportunity Scholarships Awarded

RAPID CITY, S.D. – A record number of South Dakota high school graduates were granted Opportunity Scholarships to colleges, universities, and technical institutes across the state. The number of new recipients for this fall was 1,135; that is an increase of 18 percent over the previous year’s freshmen class and a 34 percent increase from two years ago.

The Opportunity Scholarship program is administered by the Board of Regents. Students may earn up to \$5,000 over four years by taking a rigorous college-prep curriculum while in high school and staying in state for their postsecondary education. Students may enroll at any of the 17 participating higher education institutions in the state.

“This has been a tremendous program. It gives our brightest students an incentive to stay in state and rewards them financially for preparing themselves for college,” said Regents President Harvey C. Jewett.

“I am pleased with the increase of recipients. It shows high school students are really working hard. The word is out. If you want to be prepared for college and earn some money to get you there, you stay on track and collect the Opportunity Scholarship,” said Regents Executive Director Robert Tad Perry.

In order to remain eligible for the program students must maintain a 3.0 GPA, take the required course load, and pass the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) exam.

Seventy-five percent of students who received the scholarship prior to this fall remain eligible. Half of the students who lost eligibility fell below the required 15 credit hours of coursework per semester. Another 23 percent fell below the required 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Those students could have the scholarship reinstated if they raise their GPAs back to at least 3.0. The table below shows the number and percentage of students who lost eligibility for the Opportunity Scholarship program as of this fall:

| Reason for Ineligibility                    | Number of Students | Percentage |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| Fell below required credit hours            | 471                | 50%        |
| Withdrew/transferred from program           | 231                | 25%        |
| Fell below required GPA                     | 219                | 23%        |
| Graduation                                  | 10                 | 1%         |
| Failure to sit for or pass proficiency exam | 5                  | 1%         |

## Scholarship – 2

The following table shows the participating institutions, the number of new students receiving scholarships this fall, and total number of continuing eligible recipients at each institution:

### Number of Scholarship Recipients Attending Various Institutions

| <i>Participating Institution</i>          | <i># of Recipients New<br/>Fall 2007</i> | <i>Continuing Eligible<br/>Recipients from<br/>Classes of 2004, 2005<br/>&amp; 2006</i> |
|---|--|---|
| Augustana College (AUG)                   | 90                                       | 144   |
| Black Hills State University (BHSU)       | 58                                       | 81  |
| Colorado Technical University (CTU)       | 0  | 0   |
| Dakota State University (DSU)             | 45                                       | 59  |
| Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU)          | 22                                       | 28  |
| Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI)      | 9  | 2   |
| Mount Marty College (MMC)                 | 14                                       | 36  |
| Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI)        | 5  | 1   |
| National American University (NAU)        | 0  | 3   |
| Northern State University (NSU)           | 51                                       | 76  |
| Presentation College (PC)                 | 7  | 17  |
| SD School of Mines and Technology (SDMT)  | 99                                       | 123   |
| SD State University (SDSU)                | 452                                      | 714   |
| Southeast Technical Institute (STI)       | 9  | 5   |
| University of South Dakota (USD)          | 229                                      | 385   |
| University of Sioux Falls (USF)           | 44                                       | 66  |
| Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDTI) | 1  | 1   |
|   | <hr/> <i>1,135</i>                       | <hr/> <i>1,741</i>  |

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