



# News Release

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## **Internet Offerings Continue to Grow in Regents' System**

MADISON, S.D. – Nearly 14,500 students were enrolled in some type of distance education course in the public university system last year, the South Dakota Board of Regents learned Thursday. Distance education students in the system have increased by 43 percent since 2004.

Internet course offerings in the public university system have grown to now comprise a majority of the distance-delivered courses. “Over the past four years, Internet has continued to gain prominence, with a 98 percent increase in the number of Internet-based courses offered,” said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “This method of course delivery effectively extends our reach to students around the globe, and we are seeing more students out of state take advantage of these distance offerings.”

Course registrations in distance education increased by 16 percent last year, for a total of 22,626 registrations in the 2006-07 academic year. Course registrations are up 52 percent since 2004.

The annual report from the Electronic University Consortium (EUC) reveals other interesting facts about distance learners in the South Dakota public university system:

- The average age is 27.
- 59 percent fall within the 17-24 age group.
- 69 percent are female.
- 79 percent are enrolled as undergraduates.
- 59 percent are pursuing degrees as part-time students.

The public universities teach 641 different courses, comprising 1,938 course sections, by distance. The five most frequently taught courses via distance are Composition II, South Dakota Indian Studies, College Algebra, Composition I, and Intermediate Algebra.

EUC was created in 2000, with legislative approval, to coordinate the distance education course offerings of all six public universities in South Dakota. Employing an integrated “one-stop” portal and point of contact for statewide distance education, EUC leverages the unique strengths of each public university to better serve students.