



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, May 9, 2008

South Dakota Hosts Western States at Higher Education Meeting

RAPID CITY, S.D. – A 15-state higher education commission devoted to expanding educational access and quality in the western states will meet later this month in Rapid City.

South Dakota is hosting the May 19-20 meeting of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), which is expected to draw about 75 higher education officials from 15 western states. The agenda calls for presentations from experts on higher education public policy issues such as accountability, demographics, international competition, and workforce development. The group also will hear from Jose Alonso, director of the Sanford Underground Laboratory at Homestake. Dr. Alonso, a distinguished nuclear physicist, came to South Dakota after a 30-year career at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California.

“WICHE is the longest serving of the four regional higher education compacts in this country,” said Robert T. Tad Perry, executive director of the South Dakota Board of Regents and a WICHE commissioner. “These compacts serve in part to provide higher education data and information to participating states in their regions, as well as the opportunity for states to collaborate on specialized programs and services.

“We are pleased to welcome our western-state neighbors to South Dakota for this important policy discussion,” Perry said. Besides Perry, other WICHE commissioners representing South Dakota are Robert Burns of South Dakota State University and James O. Hansen, a regent from Pierre.

Business sessions will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City. While in South Dakota, WICHE participants will also visit Mount Rushmore National Memorial and hear a presentation from the memorial’s superintendent, Gerard Baker.