



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: Thursday, May 29, 2008

New Degree Programs Approved at BHSU and NSU

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents Thursday approved new academic programs at Black Hills State and Northern State universities, including a master’s degree in strategic leadership at BHSU to be delivered over the Internet.

The **M.S. degree in strategic leadership at Black Hills State University** will support students’ career advancement in government, business, and non-profit organizations. It will also be an attractive option for individuals serving in the military who wish to advance to a higher rank. “We recognize that graduate students, many of whom work full time, desire a convenient way to access courses and earn their advanced degree,” said President Kay Schallenkamp. “The plan is to make our master’s degree in strategic leadership available online by this coming fall.”

Students will complete 33 credit hours online over six semesters. The coursework is grounded in an understanding of leadership theory and the critical strategies necessary to impact change, with required courses in leadership, ethics and social change, forecasting techniques, strategic planning, and mentoring. Students will also earn credits for field experiences and a capstone research project. Black Hills State officials estimate that enrollment in the program will grow to a total of 40 students within three years.

At **Northern State University**, the regents approved a new **bachelor’s degree in musical theatre**. This program, which builds on strong academic programs already offered at Northern in the fine arts, will prepare students for positions in education or industry and graduate study. “A number of our students already graduate with a theatre teaching endorsement,” said President Patrick Schloss. “This degree will provide students the opportunity to double major in an area of secondary education that is in high demand.”

The regents also approved a new **minor in outdoor education at Black Hills State**. Many career opportunities exist for outdoor education students, including work at parks, natural resources management agencies, outdoor-related businesses, nature centers and zoos, youth organizations, and guide services. The 18 credit-hour minor will be available to students this fall.

No new state resources or additional student fees were requested to implement any of these new programs, regents’ officials said.