



# News Release

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## **New Doctoral Program Explored at University of South Dakota**

ABERDEEN, S.D. – A new doctoral program in a highly specialized field is in the works at The University of South Dakota. University officials received the go-ahead from the South Dakota Board of Regents this week to begin planning for a Ph.D. in history of musical instruments.

“This would be a unique degree offered nowhere else in the country,” said USD President James W. Abbott. “We propose to take advantage of the exceptional resources available at the National Music Museum, a world-class facility located on our Vermillion campus, to deliver this one-of-a-kind degree.”

The proposed program is intended as a terminal degree to prepare students for careers in academia, professional museum work, and the private sector, such as musical instrument manufacturing. Although regents’ officials acknowledge the demand for employment in these areas in South Dakota is not great, the resources available at USD are ideally suited to train doctoral students from across the country and the world in this field.

The National Music Museum, and its affiliated Center for Study of the History of Musical Instruments, is home to more than 13,500 American, European, and non-Western instruments dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Its collections include many of the earliest, best preserved, and historically important musical instruments known to survive, along with an extensive library of rare books and archival materials, all of which draw researchers from around the world.

University officials will prepare a plan for the new degree and bring specifics back to the regents later. If approved, the new Ph.D. degree would be offered beginning in the fall of 2009. No new state resources are requested to develop or implement the program.

- In other action, the Board of Regents Thursday approved a new minor in adapted physical education to be offered at USD. The 19 credit-hour minor, available starting this fall, may be added to bachelor degrees in physical education or recreation. It will prepare students to work with the 45 percent of the country’s population who have some form of disability or health impairment.