



# News Release

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## **Anderson to Coordinate Public University Distance Education Offerings**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents announces that Cathy Anderson is the new academic coordinator of the Electronic University Consortium.

Anderson will manage the public universities' academic offerings available from the Internet, video conferencing, and other means of electronic delivery. She comes to the Board of Regents from the Northern Wyoming Community College District, where she has been assistant dean of student services for Sheridan College and Gillette College.

"I am thrilled to be returning to South Dakota to work for the South Dakota Board of Regents as academic coordinator for the Electronic University Consortium," Anderson said. "I am passionate about distant education and the opportunities it provides students for achieving their educational goals, as well as personal and professional enrichment. It is an honor for me to be involved with the six universities and support their initiative to bring high quality education to the citizens of South Dakota and the nation," she said.

Sam Gingerich, senior academic administrator for the Board of Regents, said Anderson's work as the district's learning center director, coupled with experience serving as an online instructor for TUI University and business instructor for the University of Mary's extended campus, makes her uniquely qualified to lead the EUC operation. "Dr. Anderson cares deeply about students and seeing those students succeed," Gingerich said. "In order to succeed, students need convenient access to public higher education services, which the Electronic University Consortium is designed specifically to address.

"Many students in a rural state like ours worry that a college education is out of reach because of their distance from a traditional campus," Gingerich said. He noted that transportation costs have come to be a huge part of that concern today. "That's why South Dakota's public universities have collaborated to make many more of our college courses and degree programs available online to anyone, anywhere," he said.

Nearly 14,500 students were enrolled in some type of distance education course in the public university system last year. Distance education students in the system have increased by 43 percent since 2004, with Internet offerings now comprising a majority of the distance-delivered courses. For more information about the Electronic University Consortium, visit the Web site at [www.worldclasseducation.org](http://www.worldclasseducation.org).

A native of western South Dakota, Anderson has a Ph.D. degree in business administration from TUI University, where her dissertation research focused on leadership development in communities and the sustainability of communities. She also holds a M.A. degree in public administration and a B.A. in social science, both from the University of Wyoming.