



# News Release

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## **South Dakota Public Universities on Board with *College Portrait***

PIERRE, S.D. – All six public universities in South Dakota have joined in a national effort to deliver common data and information to prospective students and their families. College Portrait, a new Web-based information tool, was introduced across the nation today, and will become a visible part of each South Dakota public university's web site.

“Sifting through so much available information about colleges can be a daunting task,” said Regents' Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “College Portrait was created as ‘go-to’ source of basic information about public institutions presented in a common format. It will provide consistent, comparable, and transparent information for students, families, policymakers, campus faculty and staff, and the general public,” he said.

The data available from College Portrait include institutional and student characteristics, cost of attendance, core educational outcomes, and student engagement with the learning process. “These are key data elements we hope will lead everyone to a better understanding of how public colleges and universities operate,” Perry said.

Each participating university in South Dakota will place the College Portrait icon on their home page or an alternative Web site such as the admissions page. A link to College Portrait information for South Dakota public universities also has been placed on the Board of Regents' Web site at [www.sdbor.edu](http://www.sdbor.edu).

College Portrait is part of the Voluntary System of Accountability initiative, a collaborative effort of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and the public higher education community. The associations represent more than 500 public institutions that annually enroll 7.5 million students and award 70 percent of the bachelor's degrees in the U.S. each year.