



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Thursday, January 22, 2009

## **BOR Budget Cuts Total \$5.5 Million for FY10**

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Mike Rounds’ revised budget for the coming year includes \$5.5 million in general fund budget cuts for the South Dakota Board of Regents and the institutions under its authority.

“Although these cuts will not be easy for anyone, the Board of Regents stands as a partner with Gov. Rounds and the Legislature as they guide South Dakota through the economic challenges ahead,” said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “Our commitment as a board was to do no long-term harm to the academic and research functions of our public universities, which are foundational to preparing and supporting South Dakota’s future workforce.”

Major components of the regents’ system cuts announced by the Governor today will:

- Redefine the mission of the South Dakota School for the Deaf to an outreach education and support role, closing the instructional site in Sioux Falls. *General fund budget savings of \$2 million.*
- Reduce state fund general support for the Cooperative Extension Service. *General fund budget savings of \$1 million.*
- Eliminate the state match for maintenance and repair funds used to maintain Board of Regents’ buildings. *General fund budget savings of \$1,632,999.*
- Cut institutional programs or activities across the regents’ system. *General fund budget savings of \$500,000.*

The governor’s revised budget also eliminates five positions in accounting and data center management, along with operating expenses, for an additional \$368,499 in savings.

Even before these latest reductions, the university system’s base operating budgets were effectively cut over the last 10 years when the state went off a funding formula in 1998 and did not provide inflationary funding for operating expenses. “By not maintaining those inflationary costs, it has resulted in an effective ongoing cut to the system’s base budget as well,” Perry said.

Perry, who met with School for the Deaf staff in Sioux Falls today, said the plan is to create a larger, more robust outreach staff of deaf education teachers and specialists providing services to deaf and hard of hearing children and local schools across the state. The School for the Deaf

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already has a very successful outreach program serving 388 students. “But it has become very costly to serve only a small number of students on the campus on Sioux Falls,” Perry said. “We believe that our deaf education specialists, working with local schools in an expanded mission of outreach, can provide an education that improves upon what is currently available,” he said.

Programs of the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) will need to be prioritized, recognizing its historical service in the areas of agriculture, youth, and family and consumer sciences. “CES has a long history of providing excellent service to the citizens of this state, and that service will most assuredly continue,” he said.