



# News Release

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## USD Students Recognized for Excellence

VERMILLION, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents has presented student organizations at The University of South Dakota awards for their outstanding efforts in academics, community service, and leadership.

Student organization award winners are:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The **USD Political Science League (PSL)** works to facilitate political discourse on campus through debate and discussion on a variety of topics. The league hosted a successful study tour of Russia last year, and plans another study tour this year, this time to France. PSL also hosts roundtable discussions with students and faculty members on current events and pressing political issues. Recent discussions have focused on women in positions of power and President Obama's cabinet selections.
- **Community Service Award** – The **USD Veterans Club** supports students, faculty members, and staff who are military veterans and National Guard reservists. The group recently held its annual community supper, feeding more than 300 veterans and their families from the Vermillion community and surrounding area. The club also secured two grants this year to support their efforts. The grant from the Sioux Falls Stampede hockey team helped fund the community dinner, while the Carter Academic Engagement Grant provided speech and hearing services to veterans, military members, and their families.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The **USD Entrepreneurship Team** promotes advancement of entrepreneurship through network building, business and organization consulting, and club-related operations. The E-team sponsored the Extraordinary Idea Competition, where 26 business concept papers from USD students were judged and winners earned cash prizes. The group hosted a community service event that solicited cash and food donations for the Vermillion Food Pantry. It also conducted a research project to help Vermillion businesses better understand USD students' needs.



**Award for Academic Excellence –**  
**The USD Political Science League (PSL)**



**Community Service Award –**  
**The USD Veterans Club**



**Award for Organizational Leadership –**  
**The USD Entrepreneurship Team**