



News Release

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Facility Design, Bonding Approved for University Center-Black Hills

PIERRE, S.D. – Plans for a new off-campus higher education center in the Black Hills region moved another step closer to reality Friday as the South Dakota Board of Regents approved a design plan and financing for the \$13.4 million facility.

Approval of the design for what will now be called University Center-Black Hills moves the project, located at Exit 61 in east Rapid City, forward to the construction phase. The project will be bid by early fall and construction should be completed by January 2011.

“There is a critical need to expand public higher education access across the Black Hills region,” said Regents’ President Terry Baloun. “Not only are we replacing an educational facility that we lost access to at Ellsworth Air Force Base, but today’s market demands that educational opportunities be as convenient as possible for adult learners, who tend to have families and also hold down full-time jobs.

“This single dedicated facility meets all those needs,” Baloun said. “We will provide convenient access to students from the air base and other Black Hills communities, as well as an easy-to-find location just off the interstate that offers one-stop services and plenty of classroom space for students.”

The facility design plan, presented by Architecture Incorporated of Sioux Falls, includes various classroom sizes ranging from 10- or 12-seat seminar rooms to a 100-seat auditorium, a computer lab, and administrative and faculty office space. The facility as designed is just shy of 52,000 gross square feet.

In related action today, the regents requested that the South Dakota Building Authority proceed to issue revenue bonds to cover construction costs at University Center-Black Hills, which will be repaid over 25 years from student fees deposited in the state’s Higher Education Facilities Fund (HEFF).

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Schematic Design - University Center West River
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