



News Release

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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: 10:30 a.m. (CDT), Thursday, October 1, 2009

South Dakota Public University System Posts Record Enrollment

PIERRE, S.D. – For the 12th straight year, South Dakota’s public university system is reporting record-high enrollments. Total student enrollment this fall is up more than 2.5% to 33,779, the South Dakota Board of Regents announced Thursday.

“Our challenge is clear,” said Jack R. Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “We must educate more South Dakotans and graduate more of them with college degrees. Simply put, this is a workforce and economic development issue, and these numbers demonstrate we are moving in the right direction.”

“As the level of education increases, so do wages. That’s why higher education is so vital to South Dakota’s future,” said Regents President Terry Baloun. “In the decade ahead, the state labor department tells us that occupations requiring some type of postsecondary education in South Dakota will grow by nearly 16 percent, generating more than 68,000 job opportunities.”

Total headcount at the six public universities for the Fall 2009 term is 33,779, an increase of 836 students, or 2.54 percent, over a year ago. The number of full-time equivalent students—based on total credit hours generated by all students within the system—increased by nearly 542 students, or 2.17 percent.

South Dakota Public University System: Fall 2009 Enrollments

Institution	Headcount				Full-time Equivalent			
	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference
BHSU	4,011	4,076	65	1.62%	2,911.6	2,974.6	63.0	2.16%
DSU	2,780	2,861	81	2.91%	1,556.6	1,631.5	74.9	4.81%
NSU	2,805	2,672	-133	-4.74%	2,020.8	1,923.1	-97.7	-4.83%
SDSMT	2,061	2,177	116	5.63%	1,734.3	1,845.7	111.4	6.42%
SDSU	11,995	12,376	381	3.18%	9,899.8	10,197.3	297.5	3.01%
USD	9,291	9,617	326	3.51%	6,802.9	6,895.8	92.9	1.37%
TOTAL	32,943	33,779	836	2.54%	24,926.0	25,468.0	542.0	2.17%

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The historical trend of headcount enrollment in South Dakota’s public university system, dating back to 1996, is shown in the following chart:

South Dakota Public University System Headcount Enrollment 1996-2009

Fall Term	System	% Change
1996	26,508	
1997	25,719	-2.98%
1998	26,560	+3.27%
1999	26,616	+0.21%
2000	27,134	+1.95%
2001	28,446	+4.84%
2002	29,533	+3.82%
2003	29,716	+0.62%
2004	29,844	+0.43%
2005	30,720	+2.94%
2006	30,901	+0.59%
2007	32,148	+4.04%
2008	32,943	+2.47%
2009	33,779	+2.54%