



# News Release

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## **USD Student Groups Recognized for Efforts**

VERMILLION, S.D. – Student organizations at The University of South Dakota were recognized for academic work, community service, and organizational leadership by the South Dakota Board of Regents during the regents’ meeting this week in Vermillion.

- **Award for Academic Excellence**—The **Vermillion Literacy Project** encourages members to reach out to the campus and community by sharing their literary talents with others. Community members are regularly invited to participate in sponsored events, including a reading and poetry “slam” and poetry festival. The project also works in a camp-like setting with high school students who are interested in poetry, fiction, songwriting, and performance.
- **Community Service Award**—**Alternative Week of Off-Campus Learning**, or AWOL for short, actively engages students in service learning projects. This teaches students the value of serving their community and the world around them. Many students become regular volunteers at places like the Welcome Table, the Vermillion soup kitchen, and a local store that sells products made by Guatemalan peasants. AWOL is focused on increasing the number of students on campus involved in volunteer service.
- **Award for Organizational Leadership**—The **Financial Management Association** actively engages its members in reaching out to alumni who are in leadership positions, which helps current students learn more about leadership qualities. The group also sponsors field trips and symposiums so that students may learn more about what it takes to become an effective leader in the business world.

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**Vermillion Literacy Project**



**Alternative Week of Off-Campus Learning**



**Financial Management Association**