



News Release

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Students Gain a ‘Jump Start’ on College Success

PIERRE, S.D. – With the help of a prestigious \$3.6 million federal grant, South Dakota State University, in partnership with six other South Dakota higher education institutions, has developed the South Dakota Jump Start program. This program intends to serve 900 Native American and low-income students, helping them succeed in college by providing an affordable academic “jump start.”

South Dakota Jump Start students are currently being identified for the next academic year. Eligible individuals include Native American and low-income students who have graduated from a South Dakota high school and want to attend college for the first time. Working to assist high school students in their decision to attend college, South Dakota Jump Start access advisors are providing students and their families the information they need to make this important decision. Access advisors are currently making themselves available through high school, community, and home visits. They can answer questions and assist students and families in the college and financial aid application process. Advisors can be reached at (844) 601-6957 or by email to sdjumpstart@sdbor.edu.

Participating students enter a summer campus-based experience prior to their freshman year of college to earn free college credits and have an opportunity to get acclimated to the campus. The following two summers, students will continue to earn college credits and participate in guaranteed part-time employment, internships, or undergraduate research to help pay for their higher education. During the school year, students work with a South Dakota Jump Start advisor on campus to connect with resources, create a success plan, and participate in Jump Start events and activities. Financial assistance to aid with the purchase of textbooks and access computers is designed to help students continue to succeed.

“This program not only gives students a Jump Start on success in college, but it also provides the personnel and the resources to give students momentum toward the ultimate goal, which is graduation and a great future for South Dakota students and for South Dakota,” said Rhoda Smith, project director for South Dakota Jump Start.

Led by SDSU, the four-year program will operate at all six public universities under the authority of the South Dakota Board of Regents, as well as at Oglala Lakota College, a tribal institution. Institutions partnering with SDSU are Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, Oglala Lakota College, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, and the University of South Dakota.