



News Release

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Undergraduate Research Projects Featured at State Capitol March 5

PIERRE, S.D. – Sixteen undergraduate student researchers from South Dakota colleges and universities will be at the State Capitol Thursday, sharing their research work with state lawmakers and the public.

The 2015 Student Research Poster Session runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 5, in the State Capitol Rotunda. The public is invited to attend, and enjoy ice cream courtesy of South Dakota State University.

The 16 represent students statewide who are pursuing research in a variety of disciplines. “We look forward to introducing lawmakers to a group of very creative and industrious students, all of them in the pursuit of new knowledge,” said Jack Warner, executive director and CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents, which helps sponsor the event. “We want state policymakers to directly meet the beneficiaries of their research investments. At the same time, these students have the unique opportunity to learn more about the impact of public policy decisions on higher education.”

This is the 18th year for the poster session, which features students from public and tribal colleges. In addition to the students’ research, there will be displays from the state’s six public universities and South Dakota’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). These higher education institutions and research programs directly benefit from the state’s commitment to and investments in research, Warner said.

Students competitively chosen to participate in Thursday’s event are:

- Kristin Rath, **Canton**, and Madison Jilek, **Spearfish**, representing Black Hills State University
- Chris Wahl, **Port Angeles, Wash.**, Jared Horack, **Washington, N.J.**, and Michele Rogers, **Aberdeen**, representing Dakota State University
- Amanda Conway, **Rapid City**, representing Northern State University
- Julian Brackins, **Rapid City**, David Langerman, **Hermosa**, and John Rapp, **Rapid City**, representing South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

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- Krista Creager, **Rapid City**, and Mitchell Hoelsing, **Jackson, Neb.**, representing South Dakota State University
- Breanna Helland, **Frederick**, and Nate Vinzant, **Sioux Falls**, representing University of South Dakota
- Tada Vargas, **Rapid City**, representing Oglala Lakota College
- Brittany Iron Shell, **St. Francis**, and Mikal Bordeaux, **Mission**, representing Sinte Gleska University