



News Release

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South Dakota to Offer Need-Based Financial Aid to College Students

PIERRE, S.D. – Legislative action this year has brought South Dakota in line with other states who offer need-based financial aid to students pursuing postsecondary education.

As a result of passage of Senate Bill 237, state grants based on a student's financial need will be offered, starting with the 2013-14 academic year. The program will provide \$200,000 in the first year to needy students enrolled at participating institutions located in South Dakota.

“I commend the bipartisan legislative support and Gov. Daugaard's backing that allowed South Dakota to join with 49 other states in offering this support to college students,” said Jack Warner, executive director and CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents. The Board of Regents will administer the grant program, but it is open to any accredited postsecondary institution that seeks to participate. Participating institutions must also allocate \$3 of need-based support for every \$1 the state puts into the grant program.

Students will not be required to make a separate application to receive the state grant. To be eligible, students simply must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA). Financial aid directors at participating institutions will then use that information to determine those students with the highest amount of unmet need, after taking into consideration what the student receives from other grants or scholarships, tuition reductions, and expected family contributions.

Regents' officials expect the grant program should allow participating institutions to make awards of \$500 to \$2,000 to help lower the educational costs for students. Dollars will be allocated to each institution based on the percentage of federal Pell Grant-eligible students enrolled at that institution.

In the future, interest earned from a one-time investment of \$1.5 million in state monies will be used to fund the grant program.

For more information, contact the South Dakota Board of Regents at info@sdbor.edu .