



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Friday, April 1, 2011

## **Regents Approve More Academic Options to Reach Wider Audience**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents this week authorized new delivery options for two Northern State University degrees, approved two new certificate programs, and expanded the offering of two specialized graduate-degree programs to other western states.

In order to bring its coursework and degrees to a wider audience and as an added convenience for commuting students, NSU will begin offering its bachelor's degrees in marketing and in management by Internet delivery later this year. University officials noted these changes were made in response to market demands and student requests.

New certificates were also approved at NSU and Black Hills State University. Certificate programs, usually requiring 12 credit hours to complete, are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise in a focused area of study addressing identified market and workforce development needs.

Northern's new certificate is in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), while Black Hills State will offer a LEAN Concepts and Management certificate. LEAN is a systemic management concept being adopted by a variety of industries worldwide, which focuses on reducing inventory, increasing throughput, and decreasing production costs.

The master's degree programs in health informatics at Dakota State University and in robotics at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology will become part of the Western Regional Graduate Program operated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. The regents approved participation in the program, which allows graduate students from 14 other western states to qualify for the resident graduate tuition rate, rather than a higher out-of-state rate, if they enroll in these two programs.

The Western Regional Graduate Program offers students access to master's and doctoral degree programs that are of demonstrated quality and not widely available in the western region. "Exchange programs such as this are an important tool for us," said Regents President Terry Baloun. "It allows South Dakota to recruit additional graduate students into programs where we have capacity. It also gives our students an opportunity to pursue specialized programs elsewhere that are not offered in South Dakota."