News Release

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Tuition Buy-down Holds Line on Student Costs

MADISON, S.D. – Thanks to action by Gov. Dennis Daugaard and the legislature, state-supported tuition and mandatory fees, along with program and delivery fees, will remain unchanged for resident students at South Dakota public universities next year.

The South Dakota Board of Regents took action Wednesday to set the tuition and fee schedule for the 2014-15 academic year.

The nearly $4 million included in the Board of Regents' base budget for the coming year allows public universities to hold the line on state-support tuition and mandatory fees for resident students, as well as program and delivery fees. The tuition buy-down does not apply to non-resident tuition rates or to self-supported tuition rates paid at off-campus centers and for distance-delivered courses.

"State policymakers recognized the importance of providing a higher education to all eligible South Dakotans, while keeping cost at an affordable level," said Regents President Dean M. Krogman. "We applaud these efforts and thank state policymakers for their work on behalf of the public university system and its students."

This year, the state funded a portion of the public university system's salary package and operating expenses that is normally covered by adjustments to resident tuition and mandatory fees. Among the legislative actions that allowed the Board of Regents to maintain current rates on state-supported, resident tuition:

- The legislature provided a 3 percent salary package, which included a 3 percent movement to midpoint for civil service employees below the midpoint of their salary range. The state funded $2,084,367 of the salary and benefits for Board of Regents' employees usually funded by tuition and fees.
- The state covered an increase in health insurance costs for areas of the regents' budget that would normally be funded by students. This totaled $1,298,212.
- The state funded $573,284 for inflation costs that would normally have been covered by tuition and fees.

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