



News Release

Contacts: Jack R. Warner, Executive Director and CEO
jack.warner@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications
Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

www.sdbor.edu

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New Minors Prepare Students in Business and Education Fields

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Four minors and a new certificate program will be offered at three South Dakota public universities in business and education fields, each designed to equip students with specialized skills found to be in high demand by South Dakota employers.

The South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved new minors in accounting and international business at Northern State University and in software engineering at South Dakota State University. The University of South Dakota was given approval to offer a minor in the teaching of Lakota language, along with a certificate in American Indian education.

The minors require students to complete 18 credit hours of closely related coursework. The minor in international business from NSU will be available at Capital University Center in Pierre, University Center in Rapid City, and through distance delivery. Its accounting minor also will be offered in Pierre and by distance.

A major in software engineering at SDSU was recently placed on inactive status due to budget cuts. However, it is anticipated that some freshmen students pursuing that major will switch to computer science and simultaneously enroll in the proposed software engineering minor. The minor was developed to enhance the preparation of students who major in computer science, electrical engineering, or mechanical engineering.

The 12-hour certificate program, developed for both undergraduate and graduate students at USD, packages a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise in American Indian education. It is intended for students completing degrees in teacher education.

Likewise, the minor in Lakota language teaching at USD will prepare students to teach Lakota languages in a K-12 school setting and can lead to a South Dakota teaching endorsement. The minor is supported by a U.S. Department of Education grant designed to increase the quality and quantity of K-12 teachers trained to teach Lakota language and culture. The Lakota Language Education Action Project is a collaborative effort of USD, Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates, N.D., and the Lakota Language Consortium.