



News Release

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University Centers Continue to Serve Place-bound Students

VERMILLION, S.D. – Providing a convenient and supportive educational environment for students who are unable to take classes on campus and need more direct contact than online courses, university centers in Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Rapid City increase access to public higher education in critical-need areas.

Reports to the South Dakota Board of Regents by the three off-campus centers included information on program delivery and enrollment.

Highlights from the annual reports include:

- **Capital University Center, Pierre** – CUC reported a 25 percent decrease in the number of credit hours delivered in the 2012-13 academic year. The center delivered 2,112 total credit hours in the last academic year, down from 2,764 in the 2011-12 academic year. Total unduplicated headcount also decreased by 14 percent. This is the second year the center has experienced declining enrollment. In years prior to 2011, CUC experienced steady growth in both enrollment and credit hours. Factors involved in the decline could include residual effects of the 2011 Missouri River flood and increased gas prices discouraging students commuting from neighboring communities. Four years ago CUC and the USD-Pierre Nursing Program worked to identify potential nursing students from Chamberlain and surrounding areas interested in the A.S. degree in nursing. Four students from that group graduated in May. There are eight students from the Chamberlain area in the 2014 cohort and four in the 2015 class.
- **University Center-Sioux Falls** – A total of 3,117 unduplicated students were served at the Sioux Falls center over the past year, a decrease of 2.5 percent from the prior year. Total credit hours taken at UC-SF in academic year 2012-13 were 37,435, a decrease of 1.7 percent. In fall 2012, the Regents adopted a reduced tuition program for foundation courses. A specific group of 100- and 200-level courses such as College Algebra, Fundamentals of Speech, Biology Survey, Composition, American Government, Principles of Accounting, and Business Writing were offered at a rate below the current self-support tuition rate. The intent was to make foundation courses more affordable and attractive to students. The University Center-Sioux Falls is also including more hybrid courses in fall 2013. These courses contain both online and classroom study.
- **University Center-Rapid City** – Academic year 2012-13 was the first full year of classes held at the center's new location. Credit-hour delivery increased 1.2 percent from 21,427 in the 2011-12 academic year to 21,693 in the 2012-13 academic year. Students taking at least

University Centers – 2

one course at the UC-RC also enrolled in 2,380 credit hours in online courses from the public universities. Seven new academic programs were added at the UC-RC during the 2012-13 academic year. Those programs include three certificate programs, one associate's degree, and three bachelor's degree programs. Services provided by the UC-RC include testing and tutoring, student success workshops, career fairs, and staffing and tutoring services for the Veteran Resource Center that opened in fall 2012.

“The regents and university leaders will continue to work with the university centers to identify innovative ways that the centers can serve students,” Jack Warner, executive director and CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents, said. “We want to make higher education available and attainable in order to meet the workforce needs of the state.”