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New Academic Options Reach Out to More Students

VERMILLION, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents this week authorized new delivery options for two Dakota State University degrees, approved a new certificate program at Black Hills State University, and gave the go-ahead for three new minors to be offered at BHSU and South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

In order to bring its coursework and degrees to a wider audience and as an added convenience for commuting students, DSU will begin offering this fall through Internet delivery its bachelor of business administration degree in accounting and its bachelor of science degree in professional accountancy. The B.B.A. degree is a 120 credit-hour degree, while the degree in professional accountancy is 150 credit hours and prepares graduates to sit for the CPA examination. Students choose between the two degrees based on their career goals.

A new nine-hour certificate program in construction technology was approved to begin this fall at Black Hills State. It will equip current construction workers with new skills and proficiencies, while developing a more skilled workforce in western South Dakota for the residential and commercial construction industries. Certificate programs such as this one package a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise in a focused area of study, which address identified market and workforce development needs.

The new minors approved include:

- An 18-hour arts management minor at BHSU that prepares students to engage in the business side of a career in the arts. This minor is expected to make graduates more attractive to potential employers and increase the number of career opportunities available to those graduates.
- A minor in applied biological science at SDSM&T, requiring 19 credit hours of study. Coursework will focus on biological principles applicable to many careers in science and engineering, such as bioprocessing, bioenergy, biomaterials, and biomedicine. South Dakota industries involved in biofuels and bioprocessing work at the intersection of engineering and biology, and graduates with a strong knowledge base in both areas often have a competitive employment advantage.
- A 20-credit hour minor in chemistry at SDSM&T. This option aims to increase the employment competitiveness of Mines graduates, especially those with an engineering focus. It also should strengthen graduates for entry into graduate programs that require an academic foundation in chemistry.