



News Release

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Regional CES Center to Occupy Space on Deaf School Campus

SPEARFISH, S.D. – A lease approved Thursday by the South Dakota Board of Regents will locate one of eight new regional Cooperative Extension Service centers on the state School for the Deaf campus in Sioux Falls.

Extension officials at South Dakota State University said they have reached agreement to occupy portions of two buildings, including a vacant dormitory, on the deaf school campus. The extension service plans to occupy about 12,400 square feet of space at a leased cost of \$61,280. Initial lease term is for five years. Plans also call for spending up to \$70,000 to remodel the space to meet extension service needs, regents were told.

“As the School for the Deaf moved toward offering its academic programs at local schools, we’ve kept our options open to identify appropriate uses of the school’s available space,” said Marje Kaiser, superintendent of the School for the Deaf. “We now have this anchor tenant from within the Board of Regents’ system, who can make good use of our space, while investing modest resources to upgrade and rehabilitate the property.”

School for the Deaf administrative and outreach staff continue to occupy portions of the school’s administration building. With the school’s academic programs now outsourced to two nearby public school districts, regents’ officials said it is likely that other long-term lease options for portions of the deaf school property could be entertained.

Earlier this year, the Cooperative Extension Service announced plans to organize around a regional structure that concentrates staff and instructional resources at eight centers throughout South Dakota. In addition to Sioux Falls, leases have been authorized for regional service centers to be located at Aberdeen, Lemmon, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Watertown, and Winner. The restructuring of Extension operations comes in response to state budget cuts over the past three years, as well as reductions in federal funding for current and subsequent fiscal years.