



News Release

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Academic Program Requests Approved

SPEARFISH, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved a request from Dakota State University to deliver more of its academic offerings via the Internet. In other action, the board also created a new energy-focused certificate program at Black Hills State University and a minor in health sciences at The University of South Dakota.

Dakota State University requested authority to deliver two existing programs—its bachelor of business administration degree in marketing and a minor in sociology—using the Internet. The option will be available starting this fall. Officials responded to requests to deliver these popular programs to a wider audience, and said the expanded access should positively contribute to state workforce development.

At **Black Hills State University**, a new certificate program in energy management technology will also be available starting this fall. Certificate programs are developed by packaging a small set of courses—in this case, three 3-credit courses—that allow students to develop expertise in a focused area of study addressing identified market needs. BHSU will train workers to identify energy waste within an industrial, commercial, or institutional setting and use the latest in building automation control technology to reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency.

A new minor in health sciences at **The University of South Dakota** builds on the success of the bachelor's degree in health sciences, which has been offered for the past year. Interest in that program is strong, with 158 students taking the first-year introductory course and another 107 registered so far for fall offerings. A total of 59 students have declared health sciences as their major, and the first graduates are expected in 2012. The 18 credit-hour minor, available next spring, will provide students a strong foundation of health care knowledge and skills to enhance employability in careers such as health services administration and social work.