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New Study Quantifies Economic Impact of Higher Education

PIERRE, S.D. – A new study that measures the impact of South Dakota’s six public universities on the state economy will be released Monday, Sept. 20, at public briefings in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.

“This study is the first of its kind to quantify, in actual dollars and cents, the statewide impact of the public higher education system on South Dakota’s economic growth and well being,” said Terry Baloun, president of the South Dakota Board of Regents. The study was conducted by the Government Research Bureau at The University of South Dakota. Lead researcher was Dr. Michael Allgrunn, assistant professor of economics at USD’s Beacom School of Business.

Among other findings, Dr. Allgrunn’s research found that more than 42,800 people living in South Dakota would not be here without the six public universities. This includes students; faculty and staff employed by the universities and their families; as well as other workers and their families not affiliated directly with the universities, but who make a living here due to the economic activity that the universities generate. Additional data will be released Monday when the full research study becomes public.

“The economic impact of our public universities is quite significant; we think many people will be surprised at just how significant,” Baloun said.

A briefing/news conference Monday will feature Dr. Allgrunn and Dr. William Anderson, director of the Government Research Bureau at USD, who will discuss the study’s findings. The public and members of the media are invited and encouraged to attend.

- The **Sioux Falls** briefing begins at 10 a.m. (Central Time) in the Commons area at University Center, 4801 N. Career Drive.
- The **Rapid City** briefing begins at 4 p.m. (Mountain Time) at the King Center Hall of Fame Room on the campus of South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, 501 E. St. Joseph Street.