



# News Release

Contacts: Jack R. Warner, Executive Director and CEO  
[jack.warner@sdbor.edu](mailto:jack.warner@sdbor.edu)

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications  
[Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu](mailto:Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu)

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

[www.sdbor.edu](http://www.sdbor.edu)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012

## **20,000-Plus Students Take a Distance Education Course**

VERMILLION, S.D. – A new report delivered this week to the South Dakota Board of Regents documents the growing popularity of distance course delivery. More than 20,000 students enrolled in at least one distance course in the public university system last year.

According to the regents' Distance Education Report for the academic year ending last spring, unduplicated headcount in distance education courses rose 13 percent in the past year, augmenting a strong five-year gain of nearly 71 percent.

“This report documents that enrollment and credit hours in distance-delivered courses have increased, often by large margins, every year since 2007,” said Jack Warner, the regents' executive director and CEO. “Our rapidly developing network of course and degree offerings has brought a public university education to many more South Dakota citizens, who in a pre-technology era might have been shut out of that opportunity due to geography or other circumstances,” Warner said.

The typical distance student in South Dakota is an undergraduate (77%), part-time enrolled (70%), and female (64%). While a majority of distance-based students are South Dakota residents, out-of-state students have come to represent an increasing share, now nearly 29 percent of the total.

“Our report also shows that most distance-based undergraduate students are using distance courses to supplement their face-to-face coursework,” Warner said. He noted that graduate students were more likely to enroll exclusively via distance delivery.

South Dakota State University accounted for the most students enrolled in distance courses last year, while The University of South Dakota offered the most course sections by distance.

The Distance Education Report includes information from the Electronic University Consortium, which coordinates the system's distance offerings available through the Internet, the Digital Dakota Network, and personal correspondence

The full report may be accessed from this web link:

[http://www.sdbor.edu/theboard/agenda/2012/October/CommA/II\\_A.pdf](http://www.sdbor.edu/theboard/agenda/2012/October/CommA/II_A.pdf).