



News Release

Contacts: Jack R. Warner, Executive Director and CEO
jack.warner@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications
Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

www.sdbor.edu

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Brandon Valley, Harrisburg School Districts Honored for Deaf Education Work

VERMILLION, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents Wednesday honored school districts from Brandon Valley and Harrisburg for their pioneering work with students from the South Dakota School for the Deaf.

The regents adopted resolutions of recognition to Supt. David Pappone and the Brandon Valley School District and to Supt. Jim Holbeck and the Harrisburg School District for their “contributions to the education of children with impaired hearing or deafness.”

In 2008, a state task force determined that the social and educational needs of hearing impaired and deaf students could not be met due to very low enrollments at the School for the Deaf campus in Sioux Falls. The task force recommended that the Board of Regents solicit proposals from local school districts or other educational agencies to deliver deaf education support services and access to a full curriculum for School for the Deaf (SDSD) students.

Since 2009, the Brandon Valley School District has operated a program serving SDSD students enrolled in an auditory/oral educational approach, while Harrisburg has operated an educational program for bilingual/bicultural students since 2010.

“Both Brandon Valley and Harrisburg have had notable successes in serving the social and educational needs of School for the Deaf students,” said Regents President Kathryn Johnson. “Our board is pleased to formally acknowledge the leadership that has been provided by Supt. Pappone and Supt. Holbeck, their teachers, and staff.”

The Board of Regents is the constitutional governing body responsible for the six public universities in South Dakota and the two special schools serving the blind/visually impaired and the deaf/hearing impaired.



The South Dakota Board of Regents has recognized the Brandon Valley and Harrisburg school districts for their contributions to the education of students from the South Dakota School for the Deaf. From left are Brandon Valley Supt. David Pappone, Regents Executive Director & CEO Jack Warner, Harrisburg Supt. Jim Holbeck, and Regents President Kathryn Johnson.