

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, October 14, 2010

Regents Honor Student Organizations

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Student organizations from Black Hills State University and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology were recognized for their outstanding academic, community, and organizational work by the South Dakota Board of Regents this week.

Student organizations honored at BHSU were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The **Theatre Society** encourages participation in theatrical activities on campus, while providing social and educational benefits to its members. The society holds open auditions for on-campus productions, and is always looking for new participants with an interest in theatre. Students do not have to be a theatre major in order to participate, and backstage work is readily available to those who choose not to perform on stage.



- **Community Service Award** – The **Jacket Volunteers** offer Black Hills State students a variety of community service and service learning opportunities, while also working to strengthen the university's ongoing relationship with local communities. The volunteers meet weekly to decide what projects to pursue, with the goal to complete at least one

Student Awards – 2

community-based project per month. The Jacket Volunteers group is open to all students, faculty, and staff who want to make a difference in their community.



- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The **Residence Hall Association** serves as a liaison between the university's Department of Residence Life and the students who live in the residence hall system on campus. Stressing communication and cooperation, the association develops student leaders who are positively involved in their community. Anyone living on the BHSU campus may become a member of the Residence Hall Association.



Student organization award winners from SDSMT were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – Students must rank in the top 8th of their junior class or top 5th of their senior class, and meet certain standards for character, to be eligible for admission into **Tau Beta Pi, South Dakota Alpha Chapter**, an engineering honor

society. Local members are nationally recognized for their academic performance and community service, earning at least \$75,000 in awards over the past two academic years. The society's members work with K-12 students to encourage the younger students to complete higher-level math and science classes and pursue careers in computational fields upon graduation.



- **Community Service Award** – The **India Club** is one of the largest multi-cultural student organizations on the School of Mines' campus. The goal is to help new international students from India adapt to American culture, while sharing the diversity of their Indian culture. The club organizes various cultural events, including Diwali, the Festival of Lights, celebrated each fall. Members cook food for 500 guests and arrange for a cultural showcase, which has become a major event on campus. Club members also actively participate in community projects such as National Library Week, blood drives, and volunteering.



Student Awards - 2

- **Award for Organizational Leadership – *The Aurum***, published by and for students, is the official student newspaper on the School of Mines' campus. The newspaper has undergone a complete transformation in recent years: it is published every month that school is in session, its staff has tripled in size, and it is now able to fund many of its production costs through a progressive advertisement strategy. The newspaper's new organizational structure has been credited for its success. Staff members also are active in campus and community events, and recently sponsored the first annual Regional Journalism Workshop.

