



# 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, December 3, 2014

## **Study Calls for Increased Efforts to Boost Graduate Production**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The latest South Dakota Board of Regents’ study on placement of its college graduates finds that a “robust majority” of students remain in South Dakota following completion of a public university degree.

This finding underscores the strong economic value of intensifying the public universities’ efforts to boost graduate production across South Dakota, said Jack Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “While jobs are the engine of economic growth, South Dakota’s prospects are tied equally to the availability of skilled workers,” Warner said. “If current workforce trends persist, our emerging workforce may be both too few and insufficiently educated to meet the state’s occupational demands.”

The most recent data, based on public university graduation cohorts from 2013, confirm that 73 percent of South Dakota resident students will remain here the year following college graduation to either work or to pursue additional postsecondary education. For out-of-state students completing degrees at South Dakota public universities, the percentage that remained was nearly 33 percent.

Warner noted this in-state placement rate has climbed steadily since 2005-06, as more students graduate from the public universities. “While these findings are encouraging, it is important for us to focus on sustaining and improving these rates in the coming years,” he said.

Another regents’ study released this week confirmed that South Dakota is a net importer of college freshmen. Data from the fall of 2012 showed that 1,382 South Dakota students went to out-of-state colleges and universities as freshmen, while 2,693 non-residents were drawn to South Dakota institutions during the same term. That was a net gain of 1,311 students.

The supply of new jobs in South Dakota is growing and will be increasingly knowledge based, Warner said. By 2020, 65 percent of South Dakota jobs are expected to require some level of postsecondary education.

The placement study examined data sets from the Board of Regents, the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, and the National Student Clearinghouse to determine the extent to which public university degree completers were retained in state after graduation. That full study is posted at [http://www.sdbor.edu/theboard/agenda/2014/December/14\\_BOR1214.pdf](http://www.sdbor.edu/theboard/agenda/2014/December/14_BOR1214.pdf). The freshmen migration study can found online at [http://www.sdbor.edu/theboard/agenda/2014/December/13\\_BOR1214.pdf](http://www.sdbor.edu/theboard/agenda/2014/December/13_BOR1214.pdf).