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School of Mines to Offer Applied Biological Sciences Degree

SPEARFISH, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents Wednesday authorized a new bachelor’s degree in applied biological sciences to be offered at the **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology**.

The new degree program seeks to prepare students for careers based in South Dakota or for graduate study by training them in the fields of biology and engineering. “We have had repeated requests for a cross-disciplinary degree of this nature,” said Kathryn Johnson, president of the Board of Regents. “Employers increasingly look for graduates who come prepared in both the biological sciences and engineering.”

By giving students a strong preparation in chemistry, mathematics, and physics, the new program will prepare them for careers in biomedical engineering and technology, biotechnology, bioprocessing, bioenergy, medicine, pharmaceutical sciences, and patent law.

School of Mines’ officials do not seek new state resources to implement the degree, which becomes available to students this spring.

In other board action, the regents:

- Approved a request by **South Dakota State University** to offer its existing Ph.D. degree in nursing at sites in Aberdeen, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls. The program prepares registered nurses to serve as nursing faculty and nurse scientists. Offering the program in these communities allows nurses who are unable to relocate or commute to the university campus the opportunity to prepare for teaching positions.
- Approved a request by **South Dakota State University** to offer its bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies at University Center-Rapid City. The interdisciplinary studies degree prepares students for a wide range of careers or graduate study.
- Approved a 19 credit-hour minor in dance at **The University of South Dakota**, which may be paired with the bachelor of fine arts degree in theatre currently offered at USD.