



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, December 13, 2012

More Public University Graduates Stay in South Dakota

SPEARFISH, S.D. – More South Dakota public university graduates than ever before end up staying in the state for work or further education, a new study shows.

Data confirm that 73 percent of South Dakota resident students will remain here after college graduation to either work or to pursue additional postsecondary education. Looking at the outcomes for all students who graduate from South Dakota public universities, the percentage employed in state or enrolled somewhere for further education is 66 percent.

“Both of these outcomes are the highest rates recorded by the public university system over the history of this analysis,” said Regents President Kathryn Johnson. “It is clear that our university system plays a pivotal role in meeting South Dakota’s future skilled workforce needs.”

Further, 32 percent of out-of-state students who attend one of South Dakota’s public universities also remain in the state following graduation, according to the special data analysis.

The study alludes to a workforce problem in South Dakota based on the following evidence:

- **The supply of new jobs in South Dakota is growing.** The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects more than 41,000 new jobs will be created in the state between 2008 and 2018.
- **The next generation of South Dakota’s homegrown workforce is smaller than the current workforce.** In the decade ending in 2010, the number of South Dakota residents ages 10-14 fell by 9.3 percent, while those ages 15-19 fell by 7.7 percent. Looking ahead, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates the number of South Dakotans 65 and older will climb by a staggering 61.7 percent between 2010 and 2030.
- **South Dakota lags in educational attainment.** Only 25.1 percent of South Dakotans over the age of 24 have a bachelor’s degree or higher, ranking the state 34th among all states on this measure and below the national average of 27.9 percent.

In this study, data on South Dakota public university degree completers in 2010 were matched against state labor employment data to determine job placement outcomes. In cases where there was no match, National Student Clearinghouse data were used to gather enrollment information on any students attempting further coursework after college graduation. A link to the full report is available on the Board of Regents’ website at:

<http://www.sdbor.edu/theboard/agenda/2012/December/30.pdf>.