



News Release

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Productivity Review Results in More Academic Program Adjustments

PIERRE, S.D. – Earlier this year, the South Dakota public university system terminated 37 academic programs and 109 specializations within academic majors as part of a comprehensive program productivity review across all campuses. This week, the Board of Regents adopted more programmatic adjustments as part of its continuing efficiency focus.

The regents approved a master of education degree in reading at Black Hills State University, bachelor's degrees in advertising at South Dakota State University, and stand-alone majors in speech communication and theatre, also at SDSU, to replace what had been specializations within other degrees terminated in the productivity review.

“In each case, the universities had a long history of offering these programs of study and all coursework to complete the degrees was already in place,” noted Jack Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “The campuses involved also could demonstrate strong interest by students in the reformatted programs,” he said. Warner emphasized that no new state resources were needed to implement the changes, which will result in a more streamlined set of degree offerings.

Likewise, a regents’ committee today also recommended termination of several other specializations and degree offerings.

Beginning this fall, Northern State University is expected to terminate three separate specializations within its environmental science major, as well as two specialized master’s degrees in teaching and learning that emphasize language and literacy and special education.

South Dakota State University plans to terminate a specialization within its bachelor’s degree in chemistry as it completes curriculum redesign of its new American Chemical Society-certified chemistry major. Also at SDSU, specializations in food crops and turf will be terminated from the horticulture major, and the combined bachelor’s degree in communication studies and theatre also will be eliminated.