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School of Mines to Offer Graduate Degree in Mining Engineering; New Sustainability Degree Approved for USD

RAPID CITY, S.D. – South Dakota School of Mines and Technology will soon offer a master's degree in mining engineering to support the region's growing need for mining engineers and to complement a strong undergraduate degree program.

The South Dakota Board of Regents Friday approved the graduate-level degree, to begin next semester at the Rapid City campus and by distance delivery. No new state resources or new student fees were requested to support the program.

University officials noted that the undergraduate program in mining engineering at the School of Mines has grown from 20 students in 2004 to nearly 100 students currently. It is one of the largest mining engineering programs in the country.

In other action, the Board of Regents approved:

- A bachelor's degree in sustainability at **The University of South Dakota** to begin in the fall of 2012. Graduates will be prepared for careers in natural resource management, renewable energy, and community planning, with a focus on industries identified as crucial to South Dakota's future, such as wind energy, hydroelectric power, geothermal energy, green construction techniques, and bio-fuels.
- Requests to deliver existing academic programs at new locations. The new sites include:
 - The B.S. degree in banking and financial services from **Northern State University** to be offered at off-campus centers in Pierre and Rapid City.
 - The B.S. degree in nursing from **South Dakota State University** to be delivered in Aberdeen. An accelerated 12-month curriculum will be offered to students who have already completed a bachelor's degree in another discipline, with the first cohort of students to begin coursework in January 2013.
 - The B.S. degree in business administration from **NSU** via Internet delivery.
 - The B.S. degree in sociology from **SDSU** via online delivery.
- A new minor in digital editing at **Dakota State University**, providing students with the skills needed to use a variety of digital platforms in marketing, new media, and computer game design.
- A new 12-hour certificate in graphic design at **SDSU**. Certificate programs are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise in a focused area of study addressing identified market needs.