



News Release

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Public Universities Bring Academic Offerings to Wider Audience

PIERRE, S.D. – The public university system in South Dakota is focused on delivering its academic programs to a wider audience through technology and other forms of off-campus delivery. It's all part of a strategic direction to enroll and graduate more citizens with college degrees and bring postsecondary opportunities to more South Dakotans.

“We recognize the critical role our public universities play in producing a competitive workforce and building a more robust economy for South Dakota,” said Jack Warner, the Board of Regents’ executive director and CEO. “Several actions taken recently move us further down that path.”

The regents this week approved new methods of delivering existing degree programs, including:

- The bachelor of business administration in management major at **Dakota State University** to be offered over the Internet.
- Delivery of scheduled courses for the associate and bachelor degrees in general studies offered by **Northern State University** to students living in the Huron area, as well as delivery of those courses through the state’s Digital Dakota Network.
- Online delivery of **South Dakota State University’s** master’s degrees in curriculum and instruction and educational administration.

The board also authorized three new minors at SDSU in sustainable energy systems, soil science, and advertising. The minor in sustainable energy systems will provide engineering students with specialized expertise in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. A grant from the South Dakota Department of Labor helped to develop the courses and internships offered as part of the energy systems minor.

Four universities will offer a new set of certificate programs. These programs, usually requiring 12 credit hours to complete, are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise in a focused area of study addressing identified market and workforce development needs. The new certificate programs are:

- **University of South Dakota**—Nonprofit Management
- **Northern State University**—Arts Administration
- **Black Hills State University**—Museums, Historical Site Interpretation, and Archives
- **South Dakota State University**—Biobased Products & Bioenergy, Ceramics, Painting, Printmaking, and Sculpture

None of these actions required additional state resources to implement.