

Contacts: Jack R. Warner, Executive Director and CEO

jack.warner@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications

janelle.toman@sdbor.edu

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

www.sdbor.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, December 17, 2012

Student Organizations from BHSU, SDSM&T Earn Recognition

PIERRE, S.D. – Student organizations from Black Hills State University and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology have been recognized by the South Dakota Board of Regents for their outstanding academic, community, and organizational work.

Student organizations from BHSU honored with special recognition were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence – Swarm Advertising Solutions** promotes professionalism, individual abilities, and fellowship within the advertising field. The organization has raised funds for the Western Hills Humane Society, toured advertising agencies in Denver, and completed design and advertising jobs for campus and community groups. Students also helped with the design aspects of an experiential learning project associated with the Higher Learning Commission, a regional accrediting body.



Pictured left to right: Evan Bruce, a mass communications major from Biddle, Mont.; Gina Gibson, BHSU assistant professor of digital media; Dr. Kathryn Johnson, BOR president; Rocky Maier, BHSU student senate president; Devin Lynn, mass communications major from Powell, Wyo.; Jen Beckler and Tabitha Witte, both recent BHSU graduates; Dr. Jack Warner, BOR executive director and CEO; and Dr. Kay Schallenkamp, BHSU president.

- **Community Service Award – The Yellow Jacket Veterans Club** started out as a social group to help military veterans adjust to civilian and college life, but the group's focus on community service has blossomed. The club organized a recognition event for 17

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students who were deployed to Afghanistan. Members also volunteered to help with a project assisting homeless women veterans, and collected funds for care packages sent to deployed students. The club also helped serve more than 250 veterans at a Veterans' Day dinner in 2011.



Pictured left to right, front row: Sandra Crain, veterans' affairs certifying official; Mike McNeil, veterans' representative; Troy Smith, veterans' staff; Tyrell Hanzlik, student veteran and member of the 842nd; Chris Baley, business administration management major from Spearfish and Vets Club president; Dr. Kathryn Johnson, BOR president; Dr. Jack Warner, BOR executive director and CEO; and Dr. Kay Schallenkamp, BHSU president. Back row: Fred Nelson, BHSU network and computing services director; Tom Taylor, student veteran and business administration major from Rapid City; Ryan Grams, former Vets Club president; and Rocky Maier, BHSU Student Senate president.

- **Award for Organizational Leadership – ShutterBuzz** serves as an outlet for people with an interest in photography to share their skills, learn from one another, and experience photography on a deeper level. The group hosted a silent-auction fundraiser for the local food pantry, participated in the Black Hills Photo Shoot Out, took a photography trip to Denver, and held weekly photography excursions throughout the Black Hills region.



Pictured left to right, front row: Jeannie Larson, mass communications major from Yankton; Laura Heisinger, mass communications major from Mitchell; Anthony Petrone, mass communications major from Port Reading, N.J.; Kalah Hutchins, history and art major from Evergreen, Colo.; Dr. Kathryn Johnson, BOR president; Jerry Rawlings, assistant professor of mass communications; Dr. Jack Warner, BOR executive director and CEO; and Dr. Kay Schallenkamp, BHSU president. Back row: Steve Babbitt, professor of mass communications; Joe Geyer, mass

communications major from Rapid City; Rob Casey, mass communications major from Hill City; and Rocky Maier, BHSU Student Senate president.

SDSM&T student organizations that were recognized are:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The **American Society of Civil Engineers** student chapter at School of Mines promotes professional development by hosting academic speakers, the biannual Surveying Conference, and the annual Concrete Conference. Each of these activities provides continuing education for both students and professionals in the field. The chapter has also held test review sessions to prepare students to study for and pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. Raising academic standards is a top goal for members of this chapter.



Pictured left to right: Spencer Ferguson, Sioux Falls; Anthony Kulesa, Warner; Cole Bedford, Sturgis; Dr. Bora Cetin, American Society of Civil Engineers advisor, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering; Dr. Kathryn Johnson, BOR president; Dr. Jack Warner, BOR executive director and CEO; Dr. Duane Hrcir, acting president of SDSM&T.

- **Community Service Award – Circle K International** stresses community service, while developing leaders and promoting fellowship. Circle K has grown significantly on the Mines campus, fulfilling about 750 service hours in the past academic year. This year, the group collected nearly one ton of donated food for Feeding South Dakota. Circle K International also sponsors clients from Black Hills Workshop to attend athletic and other group activities.



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Pictured left to right: Spencer Ferguson, Sioux Falls; Dr. Pat Mahon, Circle K advisor, vice president for student affairs, and dean of students; Katie Ross, Dravosburg, Penn.; Jordan Miller, Belle Fourche; Dr. Kathryn Johnson, BOR president; Nicholas Kelly, Sioux Falls; Dr. Jack Warner, BOR executive director and CEO; Dr. Duane Hrcir, acting president of SDSM&T.

- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – Members of **Triangle Fraternity** serve in leadership roles across the Mines campus, including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the M-Week Committee, Inter-Fraternity Council, Student Ambassadors, Student Senate, and the Leadership Development Team. Triangle's community service projects include the Red Ribbon Parade, highway clean-up, and Habitat for Humanity. Members demonstrate a sustained record of leadership within their fraternity, student government, and campus organizations.



Pictured left to right: Spencer Ferguson, Sioux Falls; Tyler Punt, Aberdeen; Maxwell Mengenhauser, Inver Grove Heights, Minn.; Steven Hansen, Dassel, Minn; Dr. Kathryn Johnson, BOR president; Tyler Artz, Ashton; Dr. Jack Warner, BOR executive director and CEO; Dr. Carter Kerk, Triangle advisor, professor of industrial engineering; Dr. Duane Hrcir, acting president of SDSM&T.