FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Board of Regents Elects New Officers

SPEARFISH, S.D. – Members of the South Dakota Board of Regents elected new officers Tuesday for the coming year.

Regents chose Pam Roberts of Pierre as their president. She replaces John W. Bastian, who served as president since 2020 and continues as a member of the board.

Regents also elected Jim Thares of Aberdeen as vice president and Tony Venhuizen of Sioux Falls as the board’s secretary.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed Roberts to the Board of Regents in 2016. She retired from state government after a career in senior leadership roles serving on the cabinet of five South Dakota governors, including positions as state labor secretary, state personnel commissioner, and chief of operations. Roberts and her husband, Clay, operate their family’s ranch in Stanley and Lyman counties.

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About the South Dakota Board of Regents: The Board of Regents has constitutional authority to govern the system of public higher education in the state of South Dakota. Supported by an executive director and staff, the board provides leadership and sets policies for programs and services delivered by its six public universities and two schools serving special K-12 populations. The public universities (and home campus locations) are Black Hills State University, Spearfish; Dakota State University, Madison; Northern State University, Aberdeen; South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Rapid City; South Dakota State University, Brookings; and the University of South Dakota, Vermillion. The special schools are South Dakota School for the Deaf, Sioux Falls, and South Dakota School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Aberdeen.