



News Release

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SDSU, Lake Area Tech Partner on Agriculture Degree

RAPID CITY, S.D. – South Dakota State University will partner with Lake Area Technical Institute to offer students in Watertown an associate of science degree in agricultural science.

The South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved a new transfer agreement paving the way for students at the Watertown site to complete an associate degree that is fully transferable, meaning that 60 credit hours could be applied to a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences at SDSU.

Lake Area Tech offers an applied associate of science (AAS) degree in agriculture, but most of the courses are considered technical in nature, with limited course-by-course transferability to bachelor-degree programs. With this change, Lake Area students enrolled in the tech school's AAS degree may pursue the associate of science degree from SDSU simultaneously, providing those graduates an additional pathway to a bachelor's degree.

SDSU officials said it is anticipated that most students completing the SDSU degree at Lake Area Tech will simultaneously complete the technical degree offered in Watertown.

The request is also geared to producing more graduates for South Dakota's agricultural sector, which is about 20 percent of the state's employment, according to the latest South Dakota Agricultural Economic Contribution Study.