

Contacts: Mike Rush, Executive Director and CEO  
[mike.rush@sdbor.edu](mailto:mike.rush@sdbor.edu)  
Janelle Toman, Director of Communications  
[Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu](mailto:Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu)

Telephone: (605) 773-3455  
Fax: (605) 773-5320  
[www.sdbor.edu](http://www.sdbor.edu)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Friday, April 1, 2016

## **Regents Recognize School of Mines, Black Hills State Student Organizations**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents recognized student organizations from South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and Black Hills State University for their outstanding academic, community, and organizational work.

SDSM&T student groups receiving awards were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The **Society of Physics Students** promotes interest in physics and advances the knowledge of physics throughout the region. Society members are actively sought out to participate in research and outreach-related projects. The group's membership has grown significantly over the past two years.



Society of Physics Students – Executive Director Mike Rush; President Heather Wilson; John Wieland, sophomore physics major from Aberdeen, S.D.; Claire Peavey; senior chemical engineering major from Plymouth, Minn.; Isaac Fredrick, sophomore mechanical engineering major from Westport, S.D.; and Patrick Morello, sophomore physics major from Black Hawk, S.D.

## Student Organizations – 2

- **Community Service Award** – The **American Chemical Society** promoted interest in chemistry through contacts with nearly 1,000 young people over the year. Outreach occurred through chemistry magic shows and hands-on demonstrations at local libraries, in classrooms, and at other special events. The **Cycling Club** emphasizes volunteer work, trail building, repairing bicycles for needy children, and work with a non-profit group called Free Bikes 4 Kids.



American Chemical Society – President Heather Wilson; Executive Director Mike Rush; Claire Peavey; senior chemical engineering major from Plymouth, Minn.; Margaret Braasch-Turi, senior chemistry from Owatonna, Minn.; and Regent President Randy Schaefer.



Cycling Club – Executive Director Mike Rush; President Heather Wilson; Claire Peavey; senior chemical engineering major from Plymouth, Minn.; Erich Hahn, senior geological engineering major from West Fargo, N.D.; Fernando Vazquez, sophomore metallurgical engineering major from Burnsville, Minn.; Jace Doan, senior mechanical engineering major from Sioux Falls, S.D.; Mike Keegan Ed.D.; Regent President Randy Schaefer.

- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The **Vet’s Club** supports active-duty members and veterans in the Rapid City community, student veterans, and family members of deployed students. Membership has increased to represent 60 percent of the overall

student veteran population on the Mines campus. The **Professional Development Institute for Students** is a select student group dedicated to advancing professional development and leadership for all School of Mines' students. The two largest events the group hosts are a fall leadership retreat and a spring professional development conference.



Award for Organizational Leadership: Vet's Club – Regent Executive Director Mike Rush; President Heather Wilson; Rod Rice, Ph.D.; Claire Peavey; senior chemical engineering major from Plymouth, Minn.; Daniel Hodges senior mechanical engineering major from Rapid City; and Brent Svitak, senior mechanical engineering major from Geneseo, Ill.; Regent President Randy Schaefer.



Professional Development Institute for Students – President Heather Wilson; Executive Director Mike Rush; Jason Pfeiffer; Claire Peavey; senior chemical engineering major from Plymouth, Minn.; Brent Svitak, senior mechanical engineering major from Geneseo, Ill; Jin Kim, applied biological sciences senior from Sheridan, Wyo.; Chance Costello, geological engineering senior from Durango, Colo; Regent President Randy Schaefer.

BHSU student groups receiving the special regents' awards were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence** – The **English Club** promotes the study of literature and the writing of prose and poetry through a film series, publication of the Green Bowl Review, and an annual short story writing contest. Special events hosted include a poetry slam and readings of creative writing.

## Student Organizations – 2



English Club – President Tom Jackson; Executive Director Mike Rush; Denim Lind, English education major from Spearfish; BHSU Student Senate President Lucas Fralick, senior political science and history major from Gillette, Wyo., Caitlin Hill, senior English major from Veblen; Dr. Rickie Legleitner, instructor of English, director of BHSU Writing Center, and English Club advisor, Regent President Randy Schaefer

- **Community Service Award – BHSU Talking Hands** educates others about various forms of sign language. The group participates in university activities such as homecoming events, a dodgeball tournament, and the Lip Sync Battle for student organizations. It also teaches sign language to children at the Boys and Girls Club.



BHSU Talking Hands – Karrah Dawson, business administration-entrepreneurship major from Hill City; BHSU President Tom Jackson, Jr.; Jessica Zanton, assistant professor of special education and advisor of BHSU Talking Hands; Executive Director Mike Rush; Samantha Burleson, elementary and special education major from Deadwood; BHSU Student Senate President Lucas Fralick, senior political science and history major from Gillette, Wyo.; Julia Gibson, business administration-tourism major from Spearfish; Regent President Randy Schaefer, Hailey Letellier, applied health sciences major from Hulett, Wyo.

- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The **Health Sciences Student Organization** is dedicated to students interested in pursuing careers in medicine and healthcare. It offers members educational information, internship opportunities, social programs, community service projects, and guest speakers from various medical fields.



Health Sciences Student Organization – BHSU President Tom Jackson, Jr.; Executive Director Mike Rush; BHSU Student Senate President Lucas Fralick, senior political science and history major from Gillette, Wyo.; Dr. Charlie Lamb, chair of natural sciences, professor of biology, and HSSO advisor; Alicia Benz, biology major from Killdeer, N.D.; Joseph Rath, biology and exercise science major from Canton; Cheyloh Bluemel, chemistry major from Sheridan, Wyo.; Bailey Kusser, biology major from Highmore; Regent President Randy Schaefer, Shenae LaCroix, exercise science major from Newcastle, Wyo.