



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 3, 2019

New Master's Degree in Special Education First of its Kind for SD University System

SPEARFISH, S.D. – To address a critical need for special education teachers across this state and region, the South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved offering a new online master's degree in K-12 special education from Black Hills State University.

The master of arts in teaching degree is a new degree for BHSU and the public university system. It differs from other graduate education degrees in that it focuses predominately on the practice of teaching. The degree, to be offered through online delivery, is designed for candidates who already hold bachelor degrees and want to pursue careers in the K-12 special education field.

BHSU officials report that, over the past three years, 60 percent of South Dakota school districts have struggled to fill their special education teaching positions. The new degree offering, to be available starting this summer, builds on an undergraduate B.S. degree in K-12 special education already offered at BHSU.

The university expects to graduate 10 students a year from the master's degree program after it is fully implemented.