

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:** Thursday, May 10, 2018

## USD Students Recognized for Organizational Success

VERMILLION, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents recognized student organizations from the University of South Dakota for their outstanding academic, community, and organizational work.

USD student groups receiving awards were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence – Sigma Alpha Epsilon** promotes the highest standards of friendship, scholarship, and service among its members. Membership is open to men with at least a 2.5 grade point average who have demonstrated humility and kindness to all, no matter the situation. To help its members succeed academically, the fraternity held weekly study tables, organized group study sessions, and offered supplemental instruction. Membership reviews each semester hold members accountable for their academic achievements.



Executive Director Mike Rush, Board President Bob Sutton, Dave Doss and USD President James Abbott.

- **Community Service Award – The Student Occupational Therapy Association** promotes the occupational therapy profession through education, awareness, and affecting change throughout the community. Community service projects included delivery of Meals on Wheels in Vermillion, interacting with residents at Dakota Square

## Awards - 2

Gardens, filling meals for Vermillion students in the Backpack Program, organizing a school supplies drive, conducting highway cleanup events, and promoting activity among older citizens by volunteering to help with standing exercises.



Board President Bob Sutton, USD President James Abbott, Katelyn Walsh, Dr. Barbara Brockevelt, Dr. Ranelle Nissen, and Executive Director Mike Rush

- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The mission of **Pi Beta Phi** is to promote friendship, develop women of intellect and integrity, cultivate leadership potential, and enrich lives through community service. The group coordinated a resume building workshop and leadership seminars for its members, represented the organization at a reverse career fair, participated in the Emerging Leaders Institute and the Organization Fair, and attended the 150<sup>th</sup> Leadership Convention and College Weekend.



Taylor Schoenfelder, Board President Bob Sutton, USD President James Abbott, Hailey Purves, and Executive Director Mike Rush