



News Release

Contacts: Mike Rush, Executive Director and CEO
mike.rush@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications
Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

www.sdbor.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, May 11, 2016

New Public University Programs Develop South Dakota's Workforce

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved a new associate degree in human services at Black Hills State University, as well as minor and certificate programs at other universities, to meet emerging employment trends across South Dakota.

The associate of science degree in human services provides entry-level workforce skills to people working in the fields of human services and social services. Graduates in human services typically find employment with agencies that serve aging populations, cognitive or physical disabilities, or individuals with substance dependence.

Black Hills State already offers a bachelor's degree in human services. Associate degree graduates will find themselves well situated to pursue further studies in this field, BHSU officials said, since they will have already completed the core curriculum for the university's B.S. degree program.

A new minor in multicultural studies at the University of South Dakota will offer students multiple cultural perspectives, while preparing graduates to communicate more effectively within a wide range of majors and career paths. The 18-credit minor requires USD to add three new courses and is expected to graduate about seven students per year after full implementation.

New certificate programs at USD were also approved for dental hygiene leadership and English language learning, while BHSU received the go-ahead to offer a certificate program in managerial and organizational communication. Certificate programs usually require fewer credit hours to complete than a minor. They are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise within a focused area of study, addressing identified market and workforce development needs.