



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

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New Program: USD Bachelor of Science in Technical Leadership

PIERRE, S.D. – Graduates of any technical school can apply 60 credits of their technical degrees toward earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of South Dakota under a new program approved by the South Dakota Board of Regents.

“This program is largely for people who have graduated with any associate of applied science degree and are looking to advance themselves with either an additional certification or a full bachelor’s degree,” said USD Provost Jim Moran, who developed the plan. “By adding a certificate or completing the bachelor’s degree a person will have additional opportunities for upward mobility and pursuit of advanced degrees.”

Giving people credit for their technical education will get them halfway to a bachelor’s degree, which requires 120 credits. Certificates can be earned for an additional 12 to 15 credits, and those credits can be stacked toward the required total, Moran said. USD will offer five new certificates, chosen in response to workforce needs identified by businesses in the region: management, small business entrepreneurship, healthcare leadership, personnel supervision, and communication and leadership. USD already offers certificates in regulatory affairs and laboratory safety, along with web design.

“Most of the courses are already offered at most technical schools,” Moran said. “We’re going to schedule the USD courses to recognize that we are serving a group of working professionals.” Courses may be taken at University Center-Sioux Falls.

The new certificate and bachelor’s degree offerings start in August, and there’s no time limit on when the credits must be earned. A person could begin by adding a certificate and return later to complete the bachelor’s degree. All A.A.S. degrees earned in the past will be recognized, Moran said.

“If you’ve started a technical career path, you can obtain your bachelor’s degree by attending a South Dakota public higher educational institution—without starting over and without losing the money you spent on technical school,” Moran said. The USD courses will be offered at the off-campus rate of \$335 a credit hour.