

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, December 6, 2018

NSU Student Groups Recognized for Excellence

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents recognized student organizations from Northern State University for excellence in academic, community, and organizational work.

NSU student groups receiving the special regents' awards were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence –Project Pengyou** connects students to Chinese culture, while furthering an awareness of U.S.-China relations. Membership in the NSU chapter is open to all current students who are interested in Chinese culture and building relationships. The group hosts educational forums on a monthly basis on such topics as study abroad, stereotypes, and celebrating Christmas around the world. Members also have learned about Chinese language and history.



Back Row: NSU President Tim Downs, BOR President Kevin Schieffer, Adam Schultz, Tyler Harris, Kaycee Cronin, Zyandra Schroeder, Kristen VanDerostyne and BOR Executive Director Paul B. Beran
Front Row: Heidi Hepola, Madeline Kovach, and Shanae Doerr

- **Community Service Award** – The **Council for Exceptional Children** advocates for, supports, and improves opportunities for children with disabilities. Community service activities in the past year have included participation in Read Across America, hosting the annual Autism Awareness Walk, and

Student Awards – 2

working with athletes who attended the state Special Olympics bowling tournament. Another effort, called Spread the Word to End the Word, encourages students to pledge to stop using words considered offensive to people with disabilities.



NSU President Tim Downs, Dede Taylor, BOR President Kevin Schieffer, Morgan Hoffman, Andrea Christianson, and BOR Executive Director Paul B. Beran.

- **Award for Organizational Leadership** – The **Chinese Students Association** seeks to share the Chinese culture with students and the Aberdeen area. It encourages leadership through its planning of events for the campus and community. The group has been involved in events such as Golden Globe International Night, volunteering at the Humane Society, the Gypsy Day parade, Moon Festival, International Week, and events celebrating the Spring Festival/New Year.



NSU President Tim Downs, Xuemin Zhang, Bingqian Bai, Shuyue Shang, Shiyong Cai, Xiaoyue Zheng, Lei Cheng, BOR President Kevin Schieffer, Jiali Fan, Yuan Fang, Yanfeng Guo, Heidi Hepola, and BOR Executive Director Paul B. Beran.