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Outstanding USD Student Organizations Recognized

SIOUX FALLS, 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** – The **USD Speech and Debate Team** is open to all undergraduate students who want to participate in competitive forensics. Students use competitive public speaking as a platform to form lasting friendships, while practicing the foundational habits of empathy, wisdom, moderation, and courage. Students on the team gain factual knowledge, learn multiple modes of persuasion, and practice communication skills daily, inside and outside of the classroom.



USD President James Abbott, Advisor Dr. Shane Semmler, Board President Bob Sutton, Blake Wagner, Bailey Quanbeck, and Executive Director Mike Rush

- **Community Service Award** – **Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity** seeks to develop integrity, intellect, and high moral character among its members. In 2016, the fraternity dedicated

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more than \$25,000 to various charities and committed more than 8,000 hours to community service. Fraternity representatives report that the community service hours and philanthropic commitments by Pi Kappa Alpha alone were more than all other USD fraternities combined.



USD President James Abbott, Dominick Brooke, Advisor Dzenan Berberovic, Board President Bob Sutton, Sawyer Stevens, Lucas Bonham, Justin Pray and Executive Director Mike Rush

- **Award for Organizational Leadership – Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)** provides resources, networking, support, and encouragement to women in STEM fields. Efforts to dispel negative stereotypes and discrimination are also emphasized. The group seeks to advance gender equity while helping its members to emerge as the next generation of leaders in a variety of STEM fields.



USD President James Abbott, Jillian Farka, Advisor Dr. Mary Berry, Board President Bob Sutton, and Executive Director Mike Rush