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Student Organizations Earn Regents' Recognition

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

USD student groups given special awards were:

- **Award for Academic Excellence – Kappa Alpha Theta** offers lifelong opportunities for social, intellectual, and moral growth. Members on the USD campus have held the top sorority grade point average for 43 of the past 47 semesters, including 46 members with a perfect 4.0 GPA. At weekly chapter meetings, educational speeches are offered on topics to motivate members in their studies and prepare them for the professional world.



Executive Director Mike Rush, Taylor Gubbrud, Jenny Hofer, Lyndsay Claussen, USD President Jim Abbott, and Board President Randy Schaefer.

- **Community Service Award** – The mission of **USD Colleges Against Cancer** is to promote cancer education, advance the Relay for Life mission, encourage a sense of connectedness within the cancer community, and celebrate survivorship. Members write personal letters of sympathy, hope, and encouragement to women recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Collaborating with a local service organization, they raised money for the American Cancer Society. The local Relay for Life event raised more than \$15,000.



Board President Randy Schaefer, Rebecca Buechler, Madelyn Thein, Rebecca Giddens, USD President Jim Abbott, Taylor Hackett, Courtney Johnson, Executive Director Mike Rush and Taryn Twite

Award for Organizational Leadership – The **USD AWOL Alternative Breaks Program** offers students the opportunity to grow through service and to become lifelong active citizens. Last year, the group coordinated 15 week-long alternative spring, winter, and summer break trips to engage in service addressing local and global issues. Through alternative weekend events, incoming freshmen also learn about national days of service and the annual Serve and Learn event.



Board President Randy Schaefer, Andrew Koch, Allie Logan, Executive Director Mike Rush and AWOL Advisor Kim Albracht