



News Release

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Regents Review State Budget Recommendations

PIERRE, S.D. – A recommended state budget for the coming year includes important resources for South Dakota’s public university system, including more money for employee salaries and for critical maintenance and repair of buildings.

The South Dakota Board of Regents today reviewed Gov. Kristi Noem’s budget recommendations for the fiscal year that begins next July 1. The governor presented her budget plan to legislators earlier this week. When state lawmakers convene Jan. 12, they will consider her recommendations as they create a final budget for state operations.

“We are glad to see the governor identify essential ‘meat and potatoes’ issues like salary policy and upkeep of state facilities in her budget,” said Brian L. Maher, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “We are ready to work closely with Gov. Noem and legislators to address budget priorities.”

The governor recommended a 2.4 percent market adjustment for state employees’ salaries next year, which includes employees of the regents’ system. She also requested an increase in state general funds for building maintenance and repair of Board of Regents’ facilities of more than \$3.6 million. Overall, the regents’ base budget would increase by \$3,518,686 in the proposed FY22 budget.

Gov. Noem also seeks one-time funding for several public university priorities in the current budget year. Those include:

- \$453,200 to integrate technology and position South Dakota State University’s Cottonwood Field Station as a hub for precision ranching research. The field station, located near Wall in western South Dakota, is part of the SDSU Agricultural Experiment Station.
- \$355,000 to upgrade equipment and software at a University of South Dakota research center engaged in studies of candidate compounds and production of vaccines.
- \$90,000 for the West River Health Sciences Center at Black Hills State University-Rapid City, a one-stop center to attract more students in the Black Hills area to nursing and other health-care careers. The funds would improve facility and technology infrastructure and support student recruitment and tutoring.