Synopsis: Offering the services and programs of public higher education in Sioux Falls is critical not only to the long-term future of that region but to the entire state of South Dakota. Many people from throughout South Dakota benefit today from public higher education’s presence in the Sioux Falls community. To plan for the future, a permanent location for the state university system in Sioux Falls is under development.

The demographics of South Dakota are changing. While many smaller towns struggle to maintain population, other areas are seeing substantial growth. Population forecasts for 2040 estimate a 73 percent increase in the metropolitan statistical area including Sioux Falls and a 114 percent increase in the city of Sioux Falls itself. A catalyst for growth in that region has been diversification of the economy into new areas such as health care, banking and financial services, technology, hospitality, and retail.

The 1990 Census reported about 100,000 people in Sioux Falls, while the 2000 Census pegged its population at closer to 123,000. Today, it is estimated that Sioux Falls itself is home to 145,000 residents. In addition, communities surrounding Sioux Falls are often growing at even faster rates.

Public higher education is important to the continuing development of the Sioux Falls-area economy. The public higher education center in Sioux Falls—USDSU—was created in response to that need. USDSU programs are tailored to the needs of the regional economy and the demands of local students. In 2005-06, USDSU served almost 3,300 unique individual students. But, who are these local students being served?

Home Counties of High Schools Where USDSU Students Graduated
2005-06 Academic Year
Sioux Falls has become home to many native-born South Dakotans, who are attracted to new opportunities within the region. These people wish to continue to call South Dakota their home and maintain the strong cultural and family roots they grew up with. Likewise, USDSU offers a perfect opportunity for these same people to obtain the public higher education they need to fully participate in the local economy.

A Board of Regents’ review of data, indicating the high schools from which students said they graduated, offers interesting results. The data show students—most of them non-traditional—who were taking coursework at USDSU in 2005-06 hailed from every county in South Dakota except two: Shannon and Jones. With more than 80 percent of the students at USDSU currently living in the Sioux Falls area, including adjacent out-of-state communities, that means USDSU is providing new opportunities to students from all over South Dakota who now call this region home.

Future development at USDSU will support the continued growth of the regional economy, which in turn is good for the entire state. Just as importantly, USDSU provides a place for South Dakotans who find continuing opportunity within their home state to get the education they need to be successful. Another way to offer South Dakota students good reasons to stay in our state to live, work, and raise a family!

USDSU Students Who Graduated from a South Dakota High School

2005-06 Academic Year

Aberdeen Central 25
Aberdeen Roncalli 7
Alcoaster-Hudson 14
Alpine 2
Andes Central 4
Arlington 6
Armour 4
Aron 3
Baltic 10
Bette Fouchie 2
Bennett County 1
Beresford 33
Bison 1
Bon Homme 5
Bonesteel-Fairfax 3
Brookings 124
Bridgewater 3
Brule 1
Brillion-Hecla 6
Brookings 48
Burke 6
Camdenton 7
Canfield 33
Carthage 1
Castlewood 1
Central 10
Chanterelle 11
Chester State 4
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 2
Clark 4
Colman-Egan 7
Colome 3
Conde 1
Countryside 5
Custer 1
De Smet 6
Delmont 1
Dell Rapids 3
Dell Rapids St. Marys 3
Dodge 1
Eagle County 1
Elk Point-Jefferson 5
Elkton 3
Ethan 124
Eureka 3
Fairmont 1
Falkland 1
Flandreau 16
Flandreau Indian 2
Florence 1
Fowlerton 3
Frenship 1
Freeman Academy 1
Freeman 1
Garden City 18
Geddes 2
Gettysburg 2
Great Falls Lutheran 7
Gregory 7
Groton 1
Hamlin 5
Hanson 1
Harding County 1
Hastings 3
Henry 3
Highmore 6
Hill City 25
Hitchcock 1
Hitchcock-Tulare 5
Hoover 1
Howard 1
Howard 1
Huron 8
Husted 1
Iroquois 3
Isabel 2
James Valley Christian 1
Jamestown 1
Lake Preston 2
Langford 1
Leads 3
Leeman 6
Leola 18
Letcher 1
Lindbergh 7
Lismore 28
McCook Central 7
McCook Central 21
Methow 4
Milton 1
Minneota 1
Mitchell Christian 32
Mitchell 3
Monroe 5
Mount Vernon 1
New Effington 1
New Underwood 1
Newell 2
Norwich 4
Ochlocke-Fremont 9
Parison 22
Phillips 5
Platte 3
Plankinton 1
Pollock 6
Postville 2
Provine 36
Putnam 2
Quinton 4
Quinton 4
Rapid City 1
Rapid Valley 1
Redfield 3
Redwood 2
Rosholt 2
Rutland 2
Sanborn Central 1
Scotland 8
Salina 28
Seth 1
Shannon 1
Simla 1
South Dakota 1
South Shore 1
Sparks 4
Spicer 4
Stanley County 8
Stickney 11
Sturgis 4
Summit 2
Sunshine Bible 1
Taber 1
Tallgrass 1
Tolket 9
Tripp-Dakota 15
Tribal 3
Valisia 3
Vermillion 36
Viborg 10
Wall 11
Watertown 1
Wayne 2
Webster 3
Wessington 3
West Central 1
White Lake 1
Willow Lake 2
Willow Springs 2
Willow Springs 2
Winton 5
Worthington 2
Woolaroc 101
Woonsocket 5
Yankton 42

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