



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS



BLACK HILLS
STATE UNIVERSITY

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Black Hills State University Mission Statement

NUMBER: 1:10:4

A. PURPOSE

The South Dakota Board of Regents regards the regional universities of South Dakota as valuable contributors to the state's system of higher education. The regional universities serve the educational and programming needs of their geographic region and offer several undergraduate and limited master's-level programs. The emphasis is on teaching and service with a limited focus on basic or applied research activity.

Universities operating within this sector are nationally recognized to promote access to affordable education in a regional location. Black Hills State University (BHSU) focuses on personalized teaching and student services. BHSU has unique characteristics and is critical in advancing student access, affordability, degree completion, and quality education in South Dakota.

The principles outlined in this policy serve as overarching directions for comprehensive universities reflecting efficient and effective roles in educational programming, professional development, community partnerships, and community engagement.

B. DEFINITIONS

- 1. Board of Regents:** Defined as the constitutional body responsible for governing the Unified System of Public Higher Education in South Dakota, which encompasses its supervision, coordination, management, and regulation. Board of Regents Policy 1:0, 1:1 and SDCL § 13-49 through § 13-53 provides the authority to govern academic programming.
- 2. Institution:** Defined as one of the six (6) universities: Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, South Dakota State University, and University of South Dakota.
- 3. Statutory Mission:** The institutional mission defined under South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL).
- 4. Carnegie Classification:** A classification given to a university or college. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education provides a framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in the United States.
- 5. Master's Colleges and University:** BHSU has a Carnegie Classification of master's colleges and universities-smaller programs. This classification includes institutions that awarded at least 50 master's degrees.

C. BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- 1. Main Campus (Spearfish):** Black Hills State University's (BHSU) main campus located in Spearfish primarily serves traditional and non-traditional students with a larger population of part-time students in the undergraduate and master's programs. A sizeable percentage of students are either first-generation, low-income students, or students balancing their education with work and family. As a smaller campus, this comprehensive regional university offers a small unique campus culture. The campus includes the departments of Business, Education, Humanities, Performing and Visual Arts, Communications, Mathematics, Natural and Social Sciences, Studies in the Outdoors and Human Performance, and American Indian Studies.
- 2. BHSU-Rapid City:** BHSU-Rapid City (BHSU-RC) is a non-residential satellite site of BHSU specifically connected to the health sciences. In addition, BHSU-RC will also provide offering toward tourism and other workforce needed programs as approved.

D. ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND CREDENTIALS

BHSU is statutorily authorized to offer academic programs as outlined in SDCL § 13-59-1 in the preparation of elementary and secondary teachers, and a secondary purpose is to offer preprofessional, one-year and two-year terminal and junior college programs. BSHU has the authority to credential certificates, associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, and master's degrees provided formal approval by the Board of Regents. SDCL § 13-59-2.1 designated BHSU to provide the western regional Native American studies center. The Board of Regents may authorize academic programs outside of the statutory mission as identified by the Regents due to workforce needs, strategic needs of the state, etc. All program requests must comply with BOR Policy 2:23 and 2:23:1.

E. PARTNERSHIPS COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL UNIVERSITY

Black Hills State University has several special partnerships with other entities resulting in established Centers or focused outreach efforts.

- 1. Sanford Underground Research Laboratory:** Through an agreement with the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority, BHSU operates an underground laboratory at SURF. This lab's mission is to serve as a user facility by contracting with other labs at SURF to detect and count neutrinos. The lab provides many opportunities for undergraduate research. In addition, BHSU's partnership with SURF has expanded to include an artist in residency program, and the Sanford Science Education Center operates through a partnership with BHSU School of Education. This partnership is visibly evident on campus through the Sanford Science Education Center located Jonus Hall.
- 2. South Dakota CEO:** This Women's Business Center is funded through the Small Business Administration and serves women entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout the state. Services include assisting with business start-up and expansions as well as general trainings and consulting services.
- 3. Crazy Horse Memorial and the Indian University of North America:** Through an MOU, BHSU serves as the credit-bearing academic partner to the Indian University of

North America. Approximately 50-60 students attend special programs sponsored by Crazy Horse in the summer with courses offered by BHSU.

4. **Ellsworth Air Force Base:** Through an MOU, BHSU is one of two universities approved to offer programs and courses on base at Ellsworth. The MOU is effective through 2025.
5. **Black Hills State University at Rapid City:** BHSU provides administrative oversight and general operations to the higher education center in Rapid City. In addition, BHSU offers about 80% of all courses at the Center. Recently, the West River Health Science Center was approved as a partnership between BHSU and SDSU to provide expanded nursing education to the Rapid City area.

F. ROLE WITH SD COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

1. **Synergy with Community and Technical Colleges:** The success of regional universities will depend on collaborative work with regional community and technical colleges. As a regional comprehensive, partnering with the technical colleges is foundational to the mission. Partnerships should include programming, dual admissions, and advising.
2. **Synergy with Regental Universities:** As a regional comprehensive, partnering with regental institutions is essential; therefore, BHSU will build strong program partnerships with the other five (5) public universities. Program to Program agreements, collaboration with faculty and programming should be central to the mission of the regional comprehensive university.

FORMS / APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

BOR March 1991; BOR May 1995; BOR May 1996; BOR December 2003; BOR August 2006; BOR October 2019; BOR October 2022.