

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: System Mission Statement

NUMBER: 1:2

The South Dakota Board of Regents has constitutional authority to govern the system of public higher education in the State of South Dakota. Supported by an Executive Director and staff, the Board provides leadership and sets policies for the programs and services delivered through its six universities and two special schools. Dynamic and progressive leadership is cultivated at the campuses through the presidents, superintendents, faculty, and staff.

The primary mission of the institutions in the Regental System is to utilize available resources to provide an environment in which students are encouraged and supported in their intellectual, cultural, and ethical development through interaction with the scholarly communities at the institutions. The System and its institutions must assist students in their search for knowledge, in understanding themselves and their cultural and physical environments, and in developing the wisdom and skills necessary to function as responsible citizens in a democracy.

The Board affirms a commitment to the fundamental values of higher education in which programs and experiences promote curiosity; stimulate thought; encourage self-reflection; foster a genuine desire for lifelong learning; engender a global view of society which embodies a free interchange of ideas; and reflect a concern for creating a responsible, ethical society. These values include a commitment to excellence in academic programs; to excellence in teaching at all levels of instruction offered in Regental institutions; to scholarly activity, research, and creative activity appropriate to the role and mission of the individual institutions; to meaningful and productive relationships with local school systems and other appropriate public and private entities at the local, regional, state, and national levels; and to quality public service activities consistent with campus expertise and focused toward social, economic, and cultural needs of the state of South Dakota.

The Board affirms a commitment to diverse campus communities through serving the needs of all persons including minorities, handicapped, and part-time students and by seeking racial and ethnic diversity among the faculty and staff. The diversity of the campus community embodies the basic principles of an open democratic society in which free speech and thought respectful of differing opinions is encouraged among the students, faculty and staff. To maximize the potential for diversity within the campus communities, the Board affirms that access to the institutions and

subsequent success once enrolled should be supported by adequate financial aid and appropriate student support services. Students should be expected to provide for a portion of the costs of delivering programs and services, but their share should be equitable and fair.

The Board recognizes and affirms its responsibility to serve as a catalyst for and as a resource to the economic development efforts of state and local governments. Faculty and staff expertise provides a valuable resource to various agencies of state government and to regional development efforts. Inherent within this responsibility is the desirability of expanding programs and services beyond the physical boundaries of the institutions to provide greater access to quality higher education opportunities for South Dakotans. The Board acknowledges the programs and services offered by the private and tribal institutions in the state and the desirability of cooperation with these institutions in program articulation and delivery.

The Board recognizes its responsibility for appropriate stewardship of financial resources from the state, from students, and from sources external to the institutions. While the Board recognizes the diversity of the institutions and the desirability of such diversity, the six universities function as a part of a system of higher education where the collective use of resources is focused for maximum common good. Inherent within this tenet is a commitment to interinstitutional relationships in order to maximize educational opportunities for the people of South Dakota; maximize the articulation of educational programs among the institutions; and avoid unnecessary duplication by focusing the resources of individual institutions in a cooperative fashion to deliver programs and services across the state and in the region. Consistent with the commitment to accountability and stewardship is an affirmation to seek the necessary funding from the state to enable the System's institutions to fulfill their respective missions.

SOURCE: BOR May 10, 1991