

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Full Board

AGENDA ITEM: 12

DATE: April 1-2, 2015

SUBJECT: Student Organization Awards – SDSU & USD

South Dakota State University

SDSU Award for Academic Excellence: Honors College Student Organization

Honors College Student Organization was established at SDSU in 2000 for students enrolled in the Honors College. The organization seeks to enhance the experience of students both inside and outside the classroom by providing a welcoming environment to build community and a range of opportunities for service, personal development, and growth. From providing students presentations on Study Abroad opportunities, to exposing members to other cultures by hosting International students to speak at meetings, to learning about writing research and grant proposals, Honors College Student Organization strives to inspire its members to share their passions and become leaders in their communities.

SDSU Award for Community Service: Alpha Xi Delta

Alpha Xi Delta is a Greek women’s organization that was established at SDSU in 1968. The chapter’s ideals center on sisterhood, leadership, knowledge, and service to the community. Alpha Xi Delta as a National organization philanthropically supports Autism Speaks. AXiD at SDSU finds many creative and unique ways to contribute to this cause. From sponsoring a community Easter Egg Hunt each year, to selling football programs at home SDSU games, to their widely known “Crush for a Crush” program on Valentine’s Day, AXiD provides its members with many opportunities to give back and be a part of something larger than themselves.

SDSU Award for Organizational Leadership: American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists

The SDSU chapter of APhA-ASP has been actively involved on campus since 1997. The mission of the group is to allow students an opportunity to voice their ideas in order to advance pharmacy and provide opportunities that lead to improved leadership and patient care skills. The organization touts a long list of professional and community service opportunities for its members. The most recent notable endeavor would be its involvement with the Ebola Project. APhA-ASP is working to raise funds to provide protective medical equipment in Sierra Leone to

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RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Information only.

help healthcare workers treat patients affected by Ebola while also spreading awareness about the disease and its effects on a community and a healthcare setting.

University of South Dakota

USD Award for Academic Excellence: Kappa Alpha Theta

The Greek women's organization Kappa Alpha Theta and its members have committed themselves to academic excellence since its inception. They pride themselves in education and involvement on campus and thrive in doing so. It has held the top sorority GPA for 41 out of the past 45 semesters and recently broke its record with a cumulative GPA of 3.545, including 41 members with a 4.0 GPA. Additionally, members have contributed to the university's academics through more than just the classroom. With a variety of 25+ different majors in the chapter, Thetas are involved in 31 pre-professional organizations on campus.

USD Award for Community Service: AWOL-Alternative Week of Off Campus Learning

In order to encourage active citizenship, the AWOL program immerses students in educational service-learning experiences through exposure to diverse social issues and encourages post-trip application of those experiences. AWOL's core values include diversity, education, and application. It strives to encourage Active Citizenship, making the community a priority in individuals' life choices.

USD Award for Organizational Leadership: Lambda Chi Alpha

The Greek men's organization Lambda Chi Alpha is an organization that participates heavily in extracurricular involvement both within the University of South Dakota and the Vermillion community. Recent member involvement in the community includes USD Student Government, Sorority and Fraternity Life Ambassadorship, USD sports, USD music, Order of Omega, Coyote News, Honors, Club Baseball, Rugby, Campus Activities Board, Heroes, Tiospaye, Coyote Capital Management, as well as both Delta Sigma Pi and Pi Sigma Epsilon. To encourage this involvement, the Chapter hosts weekly speakers that present on an array of topics ranging from individual involvement, professional development, career networking, and academic achievement.