

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Planning and Resource Development

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – B

DATE: December 6-8, 2016

SUBJECT: Student Organization Awards – USD

USD Award for Academic Excellence: Kappa Alpha Theta

The USD Kappa Alpha Theta chapter exists to nurture each member throughout her college and alumnae experience and to offer a lifelong opportunity for social, intellectual, and moral growth as she meets the needs of the higher broader demands of mature life. The Kappa Alpha Theta members are recognized for their academic achievements, including attainment of high GPAs or improvement of GPAs from one semester to the next. The Thetas have held the top sorority GPA for 43 of the past 47 semesters, including 46 members with a 4.0 GPA. They encourage all members to dedicate themselves in their education and offer educational speeches at each weekly chapter meeting that include topics that will both help motivate the members in their studies and prepare them for the professional world.

USD Award for Community Service: USD Colleges Against Cancer

The mission of Colleges Against Cancer is to promote cancer education, advance the mission of Relay for Life, encourage a sense of connectedness within the cancer community, and to celebrate survivorship. Members of the group participated in many activities throughout the year, including writing personal letters of sympathy, hope, and encouragement to women recently diagnosed with breast cancer. They collaborated with a local service organization to raise money for the American Cancer Society, and they heightened visibility by hosting events on and off campus and participating in the D-Days parade. All hosted events lead up to the group’s largest project, Relay for Life, which raised over \$15,000 for cancer research and patient education/support.

USD Award for Organizational Leadership: USD AWOL Alternative Breaks Program

USD’s AWOL alternative break program offers students the opportunity to grow through service and become life-long active citizens. AWOL’s core values of Diversity, Education, and Application seek to create more aware, inclusive, and committed leaders by educating and engaging students in important local and global issues. During the 2015-2016 academic year, a total of 15 week-long alternative break trips (winter, spring, and summer) were offered. Alternative weekends, national days of service, and the annual serve-and learn-event for incoming freshmen were also offered.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

The USD Student Organization Awards will be presented at the meeting.