

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Planning, Governance, and Resource Development**

**AGENDA ITEM: 5 – B**  
**DATE: December 5-7, 2017**

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**SUBJECT**

**USD Student Organization Awards**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

None

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

In March 2017, the Board approved the recommendations offered by each institution for 2016 student organization awards winners and agreed to announce the names of the award winners throughout the following year.

The USD Student Organization Awards will be presented at the December BOR meeting in Sioux Falls. Information about the USD student organization award winners can be found below:

USD Award for Academic Excellence: USD Speech and Debate Team

The USD Speech and Debate Team is open to all undergraduate students seeking to participate in competitive forensics. The team is committed to providing a community-centered and supportive environment in which students use competitive public speaking as a context for forming lasting friendships while practicing the foundational habits of a liberal education including empathy, wisdom, moderation and courage. The Speech and Debate Team creates an opportunity for all undergraduate students to gain factual knowledge, learn multiple modes of persuasion, and practice concrete communication skills every day, inside and outside the classroom.

USD Award for Community Service: Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity (PIKE)

Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) at USD is dedicated to developing men of integrity, intellect, and high moral character and to fostering a truly lifelong fraternal experience. In 2016, the fraternity dedicated more than \$25,000 to various charities, more than any other USD sorority or fraternity. Moreover, the chapter members committed more than 8,000 community service hours. The community service hours and philanthropic commitments alone were more than all USD fraternities combined.

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**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

USD Award for Organizational Leadership: Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

The mission of USD's Women in STEM is to provide resources, networking, support, and encouragement for women in STEM with the intent of rising above negative stereotypes, microaggressions, and systematic discrimination. It is a diverse group of women and their allies, who recognize the importance of advancing gender equity in STEM. Together, the group members foster an open community of driven individuals who are passionate about STEM. By providing these services and strengthening the community of women in STEM at USD, the group aims to help promote its members to emerge into the next generation of leaders in STEM.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board recognizes the important role that student organizations play in the regental system. Student organizations provide students the opportunity to connect with others who have similar interests as well as experience a sense of community, all of which increases the likelihood of successful college completion. They also provide students with opportunities for professional development by offering students practical opportunities to hone skills, including those in leadership and communication.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None