

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs**  
**Consent**

**AGENDA ITEM: 4 – A**

**DATE: May 8-10, 2018**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT**

**Resolutions of Recognition**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

None

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

The South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SDSBVI) requests approval to recognize Mrs. Kathryn Wagner (6 years), Mrs. Laurel McNickle (22 years), Mr. Harlow Peterson (33 years), Mrs. Sandra Payne (33 years), and Mr Steve Kelsey (34 years) for their dedicated and caring service to the SDSBVI.

The University of South Dakota also requests approval to recognize Gene Thin Elk for his 31 years of dedicated service to the University and the State of South Dakota.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

The staff, parents, and students of the SDSBVI and USD support these requests to recognize and express appreciation to each of these outstanding individuals.

Board staff recommend approval.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment I – Special Resolution: SDSBVI – Kathryn Wagner  
Attachment II – Special Resolution: SDSBVI – Laurel McNickle  
Attachment III – Special Resolution: SDSBVI – Harlow Peterson  
Attachment IV – Special Resolution: SDSBVI – Sandra Payne  
Attachment V – Special Resolution: SDSBVI – Steve Kelsey  
Attachment VI – Special Resolution: USD – Gene Thin Elk

\*\*\*\*\*

**DRAFT MOTION 20180508\_4-A:**

I move to recognize Kathryn Wagner, Laurel McNickle, Harlow Peterson, Sandra Payne, and Steve Kelsey for their years of dedicated service to the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; and recognize Gene Thin Elk (USD) for his service to South Dakota's system of public higher education.

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** Kathryn Wagner, Dorm Houseparent, will retire from the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on June 21, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. Wagner has served the residential program to meet high standards in professionalism, caseloads, and report writing, as evidenced by her consistently high performance reviews; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. Wagner has worked with the education and nursing departments to meet the unique needs of our students; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. Wagner has served as a member of the school team to promote success and independence for students to learn through residential living; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. Wagner has provided outstanding service to the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired through work on numerous special events and the Wellness Committee; and

**WHEREAS,** the South Dakota Board of Regents and the staff, parents, and students at the SDSBVI wish to recognize and express appreciation to Mrs. Wagner for her 6 years of dedicated and caring service to the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Kathryn Wagner be accorded special recognition for her outstanding service, and it is ordered that this Resolution be spread on the minutes of the Board and that a copy thereof be forwarded to Mrs. Kathryn Wagner.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Sutton, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin V. Schieffer, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Bastian, Secretary

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Marjorie A. Kaiser, Superintendent  
SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Special Resolution Number 03-2018**

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** Laurel McNickle, Instructional Assistant, will retire from the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on May 21, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. McNickle has provided support and educational experiences at the SDSBVI through her deep sense of commitment to making a difference in the lives of others; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. McNickle dedicated herself to professional growth by attending a variety professional development opportunities for those provided on campus and training specific to student behavior programs; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. McNickle has been very dedicated and loving as she educated children that are blind and visually impaired in South Dakota. Her deep sense of commitment to making a difference in the lives of students and work with enthusiasm and creativity to help the students become the best they can be; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. McNickle has provided good services to the SDSBVI through working on numerous special events and committees such as Steering Committee, Arts and Special Activities, and Awards Banquet; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. McNickle is supportive when visiting students and their families about our school and student learning; and

**WHEREAS,** the South Dakota Board of Regents and the staff, parents, and students at the SDSBVI wish to express appreciation to Mrs. McNickle for twenty-two (22) years of dedicated and caring service to the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** it is the desire of the Board of Regents to applaud and recognize Laurel McNickle for her dedication, service, and contributions to the students of the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and it is ordered that this Resolution be spread on the minutes of this Board and that a copy thereof be forwarded to Mrs. Laurel McNickle.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

### SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Sutton, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin V. Schieffer, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Bastian, Secretary

### ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Marjorie A. Kaiser, Superintendent  
SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Special Resolution Number 04-2018**

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** Harlow Peterson, Physical Plant Manager, will retire from the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on May 21, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Peterson has managed the facility at the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired meeting the highest standards and quality; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Peterson has worked with the instructional staff to construct unique mobile devices to meet the individual needs of students and staff; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Peterson has served as a member of the school team to promote a safe and risk free environment for all staff and students; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Peterson has provided outstanding service to the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired through work on numerous special events, renovation projects, and tireless dedication to the school and students; and

**WHEREAS,** the South Dakota Board of Regents and the staff, parents, and students at the SDSBVI wish to recognize and express appreciation to Mr. Peterson for his 33 years of dedicated and caring service to the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Harlow Peterson be accorded special recognition for his outstanding service, and it is ordered that this Resolution be spread on the minutes of the Board and that a copy thereof be forwarded to Harlow Peterson.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

### SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Sutton, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin V. Schieffer, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Bastian, Secretary

### ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Marjorie A. Kaiser, Superintendent  
SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Special Resolution Number 05-2018**

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Sandra Payne, Teacher, will retire from the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on May 21, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payne has educational experiences at the SDSBVI through her deep sense of commitment to making a difference in the lives of others; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payne dedicated herself to professional growth by obtaining her Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired Endorsement, maintaining her professional membership to the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payne has been very dedicated and loving as she educated children that are blind and visually impaired in South Dakota. Her deep sense of commitment to making a difference in the lives of students and work with enthusiasm and creativity to help the students become the best they can be; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payne has provided outstanding services to the SDSBVI through working on numerous special events and committees such as Steering Committee, Arts and Special Activities, Technology Task Force, Staff Appreciation, and Archives; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payne is involved in our community and always has praise to share about our school with friends and family members. She is positive and enthusiastic when visiting students and their families about our school and student learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the staff, parents, and students at the SDSBVI wish to express appreciation to Mrs. Payne for thirty-three (33) years of dedicated and caring service to the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, it is the desire of the Board of Regents to applaud and recognize Sandra Payne for her dedication, service, and contributions to the students of the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and it is ordered that this Resolution be spread on the minutes of this Board and that a copy thereof be forwarded to Mrs. Sandra Payne.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

### SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Sutton, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin V. Schieffer, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Bastian, Secretary

### ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Marjorie A. Kaiser, Superintendent  
SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Special Resolution Number 06-2018**

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Steve Kelsey, Transition Specialist, will retire from the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on June 21, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Kelsey has helped many students get ready to move from school into living and working opportunities in their communities thereby supporting the school's vision of "preparing students to step forward with confidence and a vision of lifetime success"; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Kelsey's prior 31 years in rehab experience as a Rehabilitation Counselor and years of serving on the IEP/Transition Teams at SDSBVI has resulted in a deep understanding of both education and rehabilitation processes; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Kelsey understands the individual needs of students and their families as well as the various resources available to them in South Dakota; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Kelsey builds trust relationships with students, families, and local schools and is recognized as someone who can be relied upon to follow through with his promises and provide value to students' lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Kelsey is passionate about helping students have the tools and experiences they need to succeed; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the staff, parents, and students at the SDSBVI wish to express appreciation to Steve Kelsey for thirty-four (34) years of dedicated and caring service to the state of South Dakota and to the students and families served by the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, it is the desire of the Board of Regents to applaud and recognize Steve Kelsey for his dedication, service, and contributions to the students of the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and it is ordered that this Resolution be spread on the minutes of this Board and that a copy thereof be forwarded to Mr. Steve Kelsey.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

### SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

---

Bob Sutton, President

---

Kevin V. Schieffer, Vice President

---

John W. Bastian, Secretary

**ATTEST:**

---

Dr. Marjorie A. Kaiser, Superintendent  
SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Special Resolution Number 07-2018**

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Gene Thin Elk, Director of Native Student Services, announced his intentions to retire after 31 years from The University of South Dakota at the end of the current academic year; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Thin Elk has contributed invaluable service to Native Student Services Department and The University of South Dakota for thirty-one years; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Thin Elk has lead the development of a comprehensive program for Native American students that revolves around retention services, cultural programing, and tutorial services; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Thin Elk has created a welcoming and understanding environment on USD's campus for its Native American student population; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Think Elk has led initiatives to allow for Native American students to practice their cultural and religious beliefs freely on campus; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Thin Elk has been a respected elder and mentor for the State of South Dakota and beyond.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Regents of the public institutions of higher education in South Dakota, and the University of South Dakota, wishes to recognize and express appreciation and thanks to Director Think Elk for his thirty-one years of service to South Dakota's system of public higher education; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Director Thin Elk be accorded special recognition for his outstanding service, and it is ordered that this resolution be affixed to the minutes of this Board of Regents meeting and that a copy be forwarded to Director Gene Thin Elk.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

### SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Sutton, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin V. Schieffer, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Bastian, Secretary

### ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James W. Abbott, President  
The University of South Dakota

**Special Resolution Number 08-2018**