

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Planning, Governance, and Resource Development

AGENDA ITEM: 4 – B
DATE: October 2-4, 2018

SUBJECT

SDSM&T Student Organization Awards

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the March 2018 Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved the recommendations offered by each institution for the winners of the 2017 student organization awards. The winners of these awards are announced at Board meetings throughout 2018.

The SDSM&T Student Organization Awards will be presented at the October BOR meeting in Rapid City. Information about the SDSM&T student organization award winners can be found below:

SDSM&T Award for Academic Excellence: Graduate Student Society (GSS)

Graduate Student Society (GSS) serves as a platform for all current and prospective graduate students at SDSM&T to enhance their student experience. The GSS contributes to the academic environment at the university through graduate student advocacy, networking, career preparation seminars, workshops and webinars. With its main focus on career development, it offered specialized seminars and workshops conducted by experts in their field. Significant events and activities conducted by the organization in the last year are the following: career development guest speaker Dr. Robb Winter, presentation by Dr. Tina Nielsen of the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center on the topic of work-life balance, Science Communication Workshop, monthly sponsored interdepartmental graduation networking events, academic writing group, and professional association webinars hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Geophysical Union with focus on career preparation.

SDSM&T Award for Community Service: Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity

Lambda Chi Alpha, the newest fraternity at SDSM&T, is driven by core values that encourage members to be the best men they can be. Despite small membership numbers, the group managed to volunteer 1,100 service hours over the course of the past academic year. The variety of service projects that were participated in, combined with the group's

(Continued)

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

on-campus leadership and local outreach efforts, benefited the campus and entire Rapid City community. Significant events and activities conducted by the organization included the following: “Night in the Cold” event to benefit the homeless and raise awareness, “Brothers Feeding Others” to serve free meals to hungry students, partnership with Circle K International Club to raise over 2,200 pounds of food for Feeding South Dakota, recruiting students for blood drives, and weekly volunteering at the Human Society.

SDSM&T Award for Organizational Leadership: Society of Physics Students (SPS)

The purpose of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) is to represent SDSM&T and the Physics department. Membership is open to students from any major with the only requirement being that the student likes physics. Every year SPS’s membership grows and its influence expands, proving that applying physics during socials, projects, and outreach can be fun. It is currently at its highest enrollment ever with 60 members, which includes undergraduates and graduate students along with staff and faculty support. In 2017, activities and events in which the group participated included the following: Go-To-Mines events, bi-annual career fairs, the annual Mines Day at the Capitol, Sanford Visitors Center in Lead presentation, Denver Comic Con presentation, physics demonstration and lab tours to visitors of campus, monthly socials, and attendance on the August 21st Total Solar Eclipse in Alliance, NE.

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